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Yugoslavia

Belgrade radio carries the "full text" of the 24 April statement issued by the Government of the Republic of Serbia after discussion on the 15 April CSCE document on the "Yugoslav crisis" in which Serbia "is accused" of "aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina." The statement says that the Serbian Government "is profoundly concerned that the CSCE has based its assessments" "on imprecise information" and that a "real danger exists" that the CSCE will consequently adopt "incorrect decisions that could have grave consequences." That statement emphasizes that no paramilitary groups of the Republic of Serbia are in Bosnia and that the formation of "paramilitary formations is banned by law in the Republic of Serbia."

Belgrade TV carries Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's news conference in Belgrade on 23 April. Answering a correspondent's question on his talks with Lord Carrington and Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao Pinheiro on resuming the Conference on Bosnia-Hercegovina, Milosevic said that he does not foresee any difficulties with resuming the peace conference in Brussels on 6 May. He pointed out that he "cannot understand" the "pressure and accusations that Serbia has carried out some kind of invasion of Bosnia-Hercegovina." He claims that even if this had happened Serbia would not have been able to hide it. Milosevic also denies that paramilitary groups have gone into Bosnia from Serbia and says that Serbia's "organs of authority... fully control the territory of the Republic of Serbia." In response to a question on the recent "change" in U.S. policy toward Serbia and why "the United States is putting pressure on Serbia now," Milosevic said that he believes "the U.S. Administration is misinformed" and that the "major turnabout" in U.S. policy took place because they received "incorrect and malicious information." The U.S. Administration is not "malicious," according to him, but "they were served falsified facts on the real state of affairs in Yugoslavia." Milosevic denies that there was a "swift turn in U.S. politics toward Yugoslavia" because of his "personal relations with the representatives of the U.S. Administration in Belgrade."

Bosnia-Hercegovina

Sarajevo radio on 23 April reports Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro's comments announcing the acceptance of a cease-fire. Pinheiro noted that the parties agreed to a declaration stating that they "accept the cease-fire that was agreed upon" 12 April, and they are willing to "resume talks on a future constitutional solution." Pinheiro said talks were scheduled to take place in Lisbon on 27 April, but would only be held on condition that the cease-fire is observed.

Bulgaria

Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov "expressly" stated that Defense Minister Dimitur Ludzhev's "resignation does not involve any reproaches or suspicions," according to the Council of Ministers' spokeswoman in an interview with Sofia radio. The spokeswoman said that "structural and personnel changes in the government" will be the subject of a meeting of cabinet officials and Union of Democratic Forces legislators. After the meeting Dimitrov, commenting on the "Ludzhev case," was quoted as saying "it is absurd to expect a government to exist if it does not have the freedom to choose its team." Ludzhev said he did "not intend" to submit his resignation, while BTA noted it was "rumoured" that the parliament would "not vote through" the resignation.

People's Assembly Session Proceedings Reported

Bank Bill, Procedures Discussed

AU2104162792 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1730 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Zamira Koleci report]

[Text] The People's Assembly session held in the afternoon continued its proceedings only for 15 minutes. At the beginning of the session, Presidency Chairman Pjeter Arbnori said that the deputies should discuss the bills on the State Bank and banking system in Albania. He also said that the suggestions made by the Rulebook Commission and the Economic Commission are ready, but the Presidency and the chairmen of the parliamentary groups have agreed to continue discussing these bills within the parliamentary groups. Meanwhile, the bank should present a report on the financial situation to the parliament.

Deputy Arben Imami suggested including in the agenda as soon as possible the bills that were supposed to be discussed by the last parliament, such as the bill on opening the files of high-level state and party officials, on disarmament of civilians, and that on considering the High Party School as invalid.

Deputy Zef Brozi from the Democratic Party proposed assigning the Ministry of Agriculture with the duty of issuing some amendments on the Land Law in order to avoid conflict among peasants.

Stressing the importance of the bills that will be approved, Deputy Gramoz Pashko said that they should be drafted as soon as possible, because the Rulebook Commission and the Economy Commission have examined them.

Deputies Abdi Baleta and Menduh Derguti drew the Presidency's attention to the work procedure that has been followed so far. They said that the procedure has improved a little compared to the last parliament, but there is still room for more improvement. For example, Deputy Abdi Baleta said that in order not to be under time pressure, we should compile a prospective plan for examining the bills that are expected to be approved by the parliament.

Deputies Skender Shkupi, Perikli Teta, and Rustem Gjata then discussed various problems. Presidency Chairman Arbnori urged the members of the commission assigned by the parliament with defining the coat-of-arms of the Republic and other symbols to proceed more quickly with their work. He advised the commission to hold a working meeting tomorrow morning. The proceedings of the session concluded with this. The session will resume its proceedings at 1000 tomorrow.

Further Discussion of Bank Bill

AU2204132692 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1730 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Zamira Koleci report]

[Text] The session began today with discussion of the central bank bill. The parliamentary groups discussed the draft yesterday afternoon and the Rulebook Commission and the Economic Commission of Finance and Social Assistance discussed it in the morning. Their suggestions on the bill go to the deputies today.

Presidency Deputy Chairman Tomorr Malasi, who chaired the proceedings today, asked deputies to approve the bill in principle. The Democratic Party, Social Democratic Party, and Human Rights Union deputies all favored doing so.

After stressing the importance of the bill, Anastas Angjeli of the Socialist Party parliamentary group argued for its approval, expressed several ideas, and made suggestions on certain problems in the bill.

The deputies then discussed extensively the new role of the bank and the rights granted by this bill, especially the rights to the benefit of the development of the economic reform.

After approving the bill in principle, the deputies began to examine it article by article. According to procedure, the Rulebook Commission, the Economic Commission of Finance and Social Assistance, representatives from parliamentary groups, and various deputies expressed their opinions. During the reexamination of each article, experts from the bank gave the necessary explanations. While discussing particular articles deputies expressed their opinions on amendments and improvements. Foreign consultants on the bill included the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and the U.S. Reserve Federal System.

The bill would create a central bank renamed the Bank of Albania, as a first level bank to follow and apply monetary policy. The deputies have approved 20 of the 70 articles. These articles summarize the main provisions of the bill, basic funds, allocation of dividends, bank operations, relations with other Albanian banks, and relations between the bank and the state. Other articles involve coinage, bank administration, organization, and management, duties of the bank council, duties and responsibilities of the president and his subordinate, accounting practices, and the main provisions. The deputies are now examining Article 20.

Berisha Addresses Assembly

AU2204215292 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1730 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Statement by President Sali Berisha to the People's Assembly in Tirana on 22 April—recorded]

[Text] First of all, I want to express my sincere respect and honor to the new democratic Albanian parliament that, although only in the first days of its work, shows that it is able to work efficiently to issue legislation so useful for the life of the Albanian society and the establishment of the law-governed state.

Utilizing the right given by this parliament, I feel a duty that, without wanting to intervene in its work, to address this message to help the democratic parliament and the new Albanian Government to set some necessary priorities to accelerate the political, economic, and social reform of the country. In this framework, the setting up of the juridical power is of a primary importance. Only an independent juridical power will be able to stand up to the difficult duties related to protecting the rights and freedoms of the individual, executing and protecting legislation in Albania, and preventing crime and corruption. The reform of the court power is a necessary condition to establish order and calm in our country. The reform of local power is of the same great importance. In this direction, the preparation and approval within the shortest time possible of the law on the organization and the jurisdiction of the local power to give it the right to self-government and of the law on electing the local power organs constitute a necessity of double importance. On one hand, the local organs, by being nearer to the people, will be able to more quickly and efficiently deal with its concerns. On the other hand, the government will find at the local organs the support necessary to put into practice its economic and social program.

Other important directions in which the legislation activity should be concentrated are: the law on disarmament of civilians; re-examining the law on enterprises and approving it with the relevant amendments and supplements that will enable Albanian enterprises to apply the principles of the market economy; and the law on verification of earnings of the Albanian citizens. Along with other issues, these are some priority areas of legislation that I think should be considered either in the work of the government or in that of the parliament. I stress these issues not only for the very great importance that they have in themselves, but also to point out that quick work is required to expeditiously create the modern democratic institutions and the necessary juridical basis to further the economic reform specifically and our whole society in general.

With my highest respect and consideration.

New Council of Ministers Profiled

AU2204075292 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1410 GMT 15 Apr 92

[Text] Aleksander Gabriel Meksi was born in Tirana on 8 March 1939. He graduated as a construction engineer in 1960 at the Construction Department of Tirana University Engineering Faculty with very good results. He worked as a construction engineer at the Shkopet Hydroelectric Station from 1960-62. From 1962, he worked as a student and restorer of medieval architecture at the Institute of Cultural Monuments and the Archaeological Research Center. In 1991, he was elected deputy for Constituency No. 222 in Tirana. From April 1991, he was deputy chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly. He is now deputy for Constituency No. 88 in Tirana. He is the author of about 50 academic articles about medieval architecture and monuments and is also the co-author of university texts and the author of monographs. He is a doctor of sciences.

Bashkim Bahri Kopliku, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of order, was born to a patriotic and intellectual family in Shkoder on 15 August 1943. He graduated from the Engineering Faculty of Tirana University with excellent results. He first worked as an electrical engineer at ATA, and later as an engineer at the electrical wire factory in Shkoder. Since 1991, he has worked at the Durres Radio and Television Factory, where he responsibly performed his duties. He speaks several foreign languages. In his work as chairman of the Pluralist District Executive Committee, he has distinguished himself for his imagination, propriety, and energy in solving the very serious economic and social problems of Durres District. He is a People's Assembly deputy.

Rexhep Sali Uka, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of agriculture and food, is a plant protection agronomist. He graduated successfully from university in 1976. He worked as a chief agronomist in Mat District from 1976 to 1980. From 1980 to the present, he has worked as a teacher at the Plant Protection Department of the Agriculture Faculty and has recently been head of department. After four years' postgraduate study in Athens, he has defended his dissertation and has the title of doctor of agricultural science, won at Athens Agricultural University with excellent results. He is a regular member of the Greek Entomological Association. He has conducted a number of plant protection studies as an agronomist and teacher. He speaks several foreign languages. He is 39 years old.

Alfred Engjell Sarreqi, foreign minister, is 53 years old. He studied at Tirana University with excellent results, graduating in 1960. Until 31 March 1991, when he was elected People's Assembly deputy for the first time, he worked as a doctor in the districts of Puke, Fushe Arrez, Milot, and Lac. He is also today a People's Assembly deputy. In 1991-1992, he worked as deputy health minister in the National Stability Government and later as chief of the Democratic Party's foreign section. His studies have concentrated on health problems, social health, demography, epidemiology, etc. He speaks several foreign languages.

Artan Ilmi Hoxha, trade minister, graduated from the Oil and Gas Drilling Department in 1981 and has won several national mathematics prizes. He graduated with excellent results. He worked for one year at the Lushnje Drilling and Prospecting Enterprise. In September 1990,

he began a course leading to the defense of his dissertation in applied mathematics and information technology in the oil industry, which he interrupted in December 1990, when he committed himself to the democratic movement. He has been director of the Economic Sector of the Democratic Party's Durres Branch, and party branch chairman. He is 27 years old.

Tritan (?Masa) Shehu, minister of health and environmental protection, was born in Tirana on 24 April 1949, and graduated from the Medical Faculty in 1975 with excellent results. In 1976, he began work as an anesthetist at Hospital No. 2. In 1984, he was appointed a teacher at the Medical Faculty, and in 1986 became a candidate of sciences. Since 1984, he has also been responsible for the University Anesthesia Service. He became senior lecturer in 1990. He is chairman of the National Anesthetists Association. He was elected People's Assembly deputy in both 1991 and 1992, and speaks English, French, and Italian.

Dashamir Hamit Shehu, minister of labor, socialist assistance, and victims of political persecution, graduated from the Economics Faculty in 1982. During this period, he worked as an economist in the Tirana Forestry Enterprise. After the creation of the Democratic Party, he became party secretary for Tirana District. He speaks English and Italian, and is 34 years old.

Maksim (?Manoll) Komoni, chairman of the Committee of Science and Technology, graduated from college in 1970 with very good results in Mathematics. He worked as a mathematician at the Information Technology and Applied Mathematics Center. He is a candidate of sciences and a veteran scientific co-worker. He is the author of a number of academic articles about mathematics and information technology. He is 46 years old. On 31 March 1991, he was elected deputy to Constituency No. 221 in Tirana, and on 22 March was elected for Constituency No. 89 in Tirana. He speaks Italian, French, and English.

Blerim Naim Cela, chairman of the State Control Commission, graduated from the Finance Department of the Economic Faculty in 1969 with very good results. In January 1970, he began work as chief accountant at the Soil Improvement Enterprise at Thoma. In April 1972, he was appointed chairman of the Finance Branch in the Fushe Kruje Cement Factory. He worked at Fushe Kruje until May 1981, when he was appointed chairman of the Finance Branch at the construction site of Koman power station. In February 1987, he was appointed an accountant at the Construction Ministry, and in January 1989 was appointed director of the Construction Ministry's Finance, Control, and Revision Directorate. He has carried out studies on increasing the productive capacity of the Fushe Kruje Cement Works, which boosted its production by about 20,000 tonnes every year. He has also conducted studies on the effectiveness of expenditure on the Koman Hydroelectric Station, the intensive and extensive use of heavy construction equipment, and the organization and exploitation of the loading capacity of trucks that resulted in the saving of several million leks for the Banje hydroelectric station. He has personally conducted studies on currency exchange rates, inflation, etc. He was People's Assembly deputy both in 1991 and 1992. He is 48 years old.

Ylli Mexhit Vejsiu, minister of education, graduated from the Mathematics Faculty with an excellent diploma in 1963. In 1968, he graduated as an economist. He has worked as a teacher in the Economics Faculty. He is a professor and a doctor of sciences, and the author of many texts, monographs, and articles. He is also director of a project in population studies, financed by the UN Development Fund. He is 50 years old, and speaks French and Italian.

Kudret Rakip Cela, minister of justice, graduated from the Law Faculty in 1968. He worked as legal counselor and subsequently as a teacher at Tirana University from September 1980. He has been dean of the Faculty of Legal and Political Sciences, and was elected Justice Minister in the government of non-party intellectuals on 16 December 1991. He is a senior lecturer and author and coauthor of several teaching texts for the Law Faculty, the Economics Faculty, and economic secondary Schools. He is also the author of several academic articles mainly published in the legal magazine DREJTESIA POPULLORE. He is 47 years old.

Fatos Demir Bitincka, minister of transportation, is a mechanical engineer who graduated in 1972. He worked at the Elbasan Tractor Station until 1980. In March 1980, he began work in the Transportation Ministry as a specialist and later director of the Engineering Directorate, director of the Road Transportation Directorate, and transportation minister in the National Stability Government. He has taken part in various studies on vehicle repair, retreading tires, developing road transportation in our country, etc. He is 43 years old.

Abdyl Ismail Xhaja, minister of industry, graduated from the Economic Faculty of Tirana University in 1965, specializing in planning. He worked for 24 years, from 1965 to 1989, at the Elbasan Steel Combine. In 1989, he began to work as a specialist in the Ministry of Mineral Resources, and he was deputy minister of this ministry in the government of specialists. He has directed postgraduate studies for economists, and is 49 years old.

Ilir Spiro Manushi, minister of construction, 35 years old, graduated from Tirana University in 1981 as a hydrotechnical engineer. From his graduation until he was elected chairman of the Pluralist Executive Committee of Korce District, he worked as a hydro-engineer in this district, and was deputy to the People's Assembly in the last legislature.

Air, Arms Embargo Against Libya Implemented

AU2404073892 Sofia BTA in English 2046 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Sofia, April 23 (BTA)—On April 22 the Council of Ministers issued a special ordinance on the implementation of Resolution 748 of the UN Security Council which imposed an embargo on flights and arms deliveries to Libya in connection with the terrorist act against the Pan Am airliner in 1988.

Any aircraft which have taken off or are to land on Libyan territory are banned from taking off, landing or flying over the territory of Bulgaria. The office of the Libyan Arabian Airlines in Sofia is closed down till the sanctions are lifted.

The document also specifies the bans connected with the arms embargo.

It commissions the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of the Interior to take the necessary measures to expel or ban from entry into Bulgarian territory Libyan citizens who have been expelled or banned from entering other states for participating in terrorist acts.

Spokeswoman Interviewed on Conflict With Ludzhev

AU2304120692 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Interview with Nadezhda Mikhaylova, spokeswoman of the Council of Ministers, by reporter Kalina Stancheva—live]

[Excerpts] [Stancheva] The request for the resignation of Defense Minister Ludzhev is the topic of the day at the Council of Ministers today, despite the fact that the government is holding its normal session on an agenda that is three pages long, namely, it consists of 27 items.

Apart from this, however, the statement of the defense minister is being widely commented on here in the lobbies. [passage omitted]

Let us hear the point of view of the Council of Ministers from Mrs. Nadezhda Mikhaylova, the government's spokeswoman:

[Mikhaylova] Good day to the listeners of the Khorizont Program. It is true that I heard Minister Dimitur Ludzhev's statement a short while ago, and I am authorized by the prime minister to say that the Council of Ministers is not an honorary legion, after all. This means that the appointment to the post of minister in the cabinet is not simply a matter of prestige, but also of guaranteeing the well-balanced functioning of the government. The prime minister expressly pointed out his position that Mr. Ludzhev's resignation does not involve any reproaches or suspicions. However, I would like to add something, and that is that I hope that the statement cited by the daily TRUD was not pronounced by Mr. Ludzhev, because if it were, it would be a dangerous step on his part.

[Stancheva] Let us explain what we are talking about. The TRUD statement reads: It is possible that some gentlemen may think that they will be able to suppress the current tension and the trade unions with the Army, and that I would do what I could to prevent them. However, I am not so easy to defeat. I will immediately announce everything I know and all the information I have to the parliamentary group of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] and to the entire public. You should keep this in mind.

[Mikhaylova] In keeping this in mind, I just refuse to comment on the statement. I hope that Mr. Ludzhev did not really say this.

[Stancheva] I understand that the prime minister intends to submit this question to the SDS Parliamentary group this afternoon, considering the exceptional gravity of the situation.

[Mikhaylova] Yes, this is true. We repeatedly declared that matters involving structural and personnel changes in the government are the subject of discussions, talks, and consultations with the SDS parliamentary group. As Mr. Ludzhev mentioned, the prime minister is entitled to assess how to form his cabinet or how to select the people who are really likely to maintain the balance and to make it possible for his government to function correctly and effectively. Once more I point out that it is not a question of reproaches and suspicions, I am aware of the things that are brought up in the newspapers, but every newspaper has to its follow its own policy, after all, and provides different interpretations of facts, and expresses various suspicions. However, this is the official stand which I am authorized to express as the official government spokeswoman.

[Stancheva] I wish you a prompt and favorable solution of this intricate affair. However, the most frightening thing about this is the fact that it involves the army, the trade unions, and the current tension. As you say, let us hope that Mr. Ludzhev did not say exactly those things. I will take the liberty of asking you: Is there some other personal resignation involved, are there other such requests?

[Mikhaylova] I can say that many resignations are requested, and as you know, since the government stepped into office, there have always been requests for some ministers' resignation. However, I think that it is not so important who will sit on a ministerial chair, as the newspapers like to say, it is much more important to properly assess and reflect on all matters in a correct manner, and that the government's structure should permit the normal functioning of the cabinet, also for the future, irrespective of the question who the future ministers might be.

Dimitrov, SDS MP's Discuss 'Cabinet Changes'

AU2404074692 Sofia BTA in English 2250 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Sofia, April 23 (BTA)—At their meeting tonight, which continued for about an hour, Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov and the parliamentary group of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) discussed cabinet changes. According to an agreement reached in advance, they discussed only structural changes.

After the meeting the prime minister was hopeful: the changes proposed by him were not voted finally but it became evident which view on the changes is supported by the majority. The prevailing opinion is that the Committee for Communications should be transformed into a ministry, that the food processing industry should not be attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and that trade and tourism should not be combined in one ministry. It is still to be discussed whether there should be a minister without a portfolio. Most probably there will be two deputy prime ministers, but their status will be changed. One of them will coordinate the relations with the local structures of government and the other the work of the economic team which will probably grow with the establishment of new ministries. "This deputy prime minister will not determine the economic strategy, which is the task of the entire cabinet," Mr. Filip Dimitrov told journalists. He stressed repeatedly that the new functions of the deputy prime ministers will be solely of a coordinating nature.

The consultations on the structure of the government will continue. Discussions on personnel changes and on new figures in the cabinet will start only after their completion.

The prime minister's answer to a question about the possible removal of Defence Minister Dimitur Ludzhev was circumvential: "It is unnatural for a government to support the existence of units which are unacceptable to the parliamentary groups supporting this government." Asked about the "Ludzhev case" once again he added: "It is absurd to expect a government to exist if it does not have the freedom to choose its team."

Mr. Dimitur Ludzhev joined the meeting later. He confirmed that he does not intend to hand in his resignation. Mr. Dimitur Ludzhev declined to tell journalists of the motives of the prime minister's request for his resignation.

"This government will not be entirely new and will not be voted 'en bloc,'" the prime minister told BTA. He expressed the stand that parliament should vote only the changes proposed by him.

In the lobbies it is rumoured that Dimitur Ludzhev will be supported by a great part of the MP's [members of parliament] of the SDS and that his resignation will not be voted through. Asked about these rumours Mr. Filip Dimitrov said: "There can be only one comment on this issue because the changes in the cabinet depend on the initiative of the prime minister." "It is presumed that the prime minister does not propose such changes fortuitously," Mr. Filip Dimitrov added.

The final decisions on the changes in the government and its new structure and policy will probably become known after the Holy Week.

Dimitrov Says No Changes 'So Far'

AU2304193292 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1900 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] On 23 April Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov held talks with the parliamentary faction of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] about the upcoming structural changes in the government.

After the meeting, Mr. Dimitrov said to our reporter:

[Begin Dimitrov recording] We have not voted on any changes so far. Actually, what the deputies did was express their views and thus demonstrate what the prevailing view is.

I can tell you that relatively uniform ideas were expressed on the issues that were discussed, namely, turning the Committee on Postal Services and Communications into a ministry, whether the structure of the Ministry of Industry and Trade should be preserved, whether several functions related to tourism, trade, and so forth, should be merged in the hands of one organ or kept separated, which incidentally was the prevailing opinion on that matter, and so forth. This is more or less the situation that emerges. In principle the idea to restructure the Ministry of Trade and Industry by separating its two components was adopted. I think that both I and my colleagues—the ministers who attended this meeting—drew our conclusion as to what ideas prevail, and if certain serious considerations impose a different decision—we ourselves will adopt it. In any case, the decision today was to first accomplish the structural changes. Afterward consultations will be conducted as to the appearance of new figures in the cabinet. This is connected to the logic of the structural change I invoked earlier.

As you know, every party, and especially a coalition such as the SDS, holds consultations in such cases. This takes time, and I will do my best to utilize the time appropriately. [end recording]

Markov Comments on Consultations

AU2404074492 Sofia BTA in English 2055 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Report by BTA reporter Ani Parmaksizyan]

[Text] Sofia, April 23 (BTA)—Today's meeting between the parliamentary group of the ruling Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) with Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov and some cabinet ministers discussed structural changes in the government. The talks will continue this evening

in order to elucidate the stands of all participating sides on this issue. A regular session of the government was held behind closed doors between the two meetings.

In an interview for the Bulgarian Radio Mr. Georgi Markov MP [member of parliament] of the SDS informed of the topics discussed at the morning meeting which continued for an hour and a half. It was proposed to transform the Committees for Power Engineering, Tourism and Communications into ministries. The division of the Ministry of Industry and Trade was also discussed.

The question whether the deputy prime ministers should also be charge of different spheres was discussed at the meeting, too. Most probably they will receive new powers and will be put in charge of the economy and defence. It was also proposed to appoint a minister without portfolio to conduct the negotiations on behalf of the government with the trade unions and the international financial institutions.

According to National Assembly Chairman Stefan Savov and Mr. Georgi Markov, this evening's meeting with Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov and with some ministers will clarify the problems with the structural changes in the government and may proceed to consultations on personal changes. During the ten-day Easter holidays of parliament the prime minister will hold consultations with all parties within the ruling SDS. According to Mr. Georgi Markov, it is necessary to achieve complete accord in the parliamentary groups of the SDS and the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms so that there would be no surprises in the voting of the personal changes in the debating chamber. "This would not be a vote for a cabinet en bloc but only for individual persons," he said.

It was reported that during the meeting with the parliamentary group of the SDS Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov did not raise the question of the removal of Defence Minister Dimitur Ludzhev from his post. The prime minister asked Dimitur Ludzhev to hand in his resignation himself yesterday. Mr. Dimitrov declined to mention his concrete reasons for requesting the resignation of the defence minister before a reporter of the Bulgarian Radio. Mr. Georgi Markov informed of the rumours in the lobbies concerning the requested resignation. "There are rumours about a possible conciliation between Defence Minister Ludzhev and the trade unions, about a possible attempt for placing the government of the country under the control of the trade unions after the Latin American model with the assistance of the defence minister," he said. The MP said that this was not the motive of the prime minister because Filip Dimitrov has not mentioned it to the SDS MP's.

Mr. Dimitur Ludzhev did not deny before journalists that he met the prime minister last night and that they discussed his possible resignation but, according to him, this problem could be settled at the extraordinary meeting of the cabinet on Tuesday. Defence Minister Ludzhev told BTA that the prime minister motivated the request for his resignation saying that his presence disturbed the functional balance in the cabinet.

Dr. Konstantin Trenchev, president of the influential Podkrepa Labour Confederation, told journalists today that "if some ministers are to leave this cabinet, Podkrepa insists that this be Minister of Industry and Trade Ivan Pushkarov who has already proved his utter incompetence." According to Dr. Trenchev, Podkrepa is not interested in the rumours about other resignations of ministers because it is none of its concern.

Commission Examines Kozloduy Contract Tenders

AU2304133492 Sofia BTA in English
1301 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Sofia, April 23 (BTA)—Belgatom of Belgium and a consortium of the U.S. Westinghouse and Impresarios Agrupados of Spain are tendering for a commission to increase the seismic stability of the four Soviet-made WWER-230 reactors of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant.

John Coniam, an expert of the EC programme implementation unit, today launched the procedure of selecting the winner of the tender. A commission of Bulgarian and foreign experts headed by Mr. Coniam examined in an open meeting at the Committee on Power Engineering the projects submitted by the tenderers. The winner will be announced by the end of April after the commission examines the financial aspects of the two tenders at a closed-door meeting.

The programme for increasing the seismic stability of the WWER-230 reactors is the last of a series of projects for the modernization and increasing the safety of the Kozloduy N-plant for which Bulgaria was granted ECU [European Currency Unit] 13.5 million under the Operation PHARE [Economic and Reconstruction Aid for Poland and Hungary Program] of the EC. The implementation of the projects is being monitored by the authoritative World Association of Nuclear Operators.

A consortium of Siemens and Electricite de France, as well as Westinghouse, Belgatom and Impresarios Agrupados have been carrying out 10 programmes aimed to improve the maintenance and operation of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant and to provide better training for its staff. Bulgarian nuclear operators are taking a training course at a nuclear power station in France.

Defense Pact Signed With Ukraine

LD2404015992 Prague CSTK in English 2239 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Prague April 23 (CSTK)—Czechoslovakia's and Ukraine's Defence Ministries today signed a cooperation agreement in military affairs. The agreement was signed by Acting Chief of the General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces Lieutenant General Georgiy Zhivytsa and the Chief of the General Staff of the Czechoslovak Army Lieutenant General Karel Pezl. Pezl told journalists cooperation between the armies of Czechoslovakia and Ukraine could be further expanded after the conclusion of a treaty between the two countries. Zhivytsa said one of the main issues discussed in the three days of negotiations leading up to the signing of the agreement was a renewal of Ukrainian arms exports to Czechoslovakia. He said they would be renewed "in the near future." Pezl said "Czechoslovak industry can in an number of areas help to resolve Ukraine's problems." A short-lived agreement similar to that signed today was concluded between Czechoslovakia and an independent Ukraine in 1918. Zhivytsa confirmed that despite recent delays, Ukraine will transfer to Russia all tactical nuclear weapons by July 1 of this year, the originally-agreed date. He also said Ukraine wants to sign independently the "START" Treaty, concluded between the United States and the former Soviet Union on limiting strategic weapons.

Official Cautions on Observance of UN Sanctions

AU2304123492 Prague CSTK in English 1520 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Prague April 21 (CSTK)—A Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Ministry representative today pointed out a possible danger in consequence of imprudent observance of U.N. sanctions against Libya which started to be applied April 15 and to which Czechoslovakia has also agreed.

In an interview with CSTK, the official, who wished not to be named, said it is necessary to apply the U.N.-imposed sanctions, but in a way that would not harm bilateral trade cooperation, otherwise Libya might take countermeasures which might result in a loss of the Libyan market.

The U.N. Security Council resolution of March 31 ordered suspension of air links with Libya, cancellation of military cooperation, and reduction of Libya's diplomatic staff in the U.N. member states as from April 15 if Libya refuses to extradite two Libyans suspected of involvement in the 1988 terrorist attack on a PAN AM airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland.

The Foreign Trade Ministry official said less than 1,000 Czechoslovak citizens are now working in Libya, and only a very small part of them participate in military-related business to which the U.N. sanctions would apply.

'Slovak Liberation Army' Threatens To Fight

LD2304155592 Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Slovak 1500 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Today the PRESS AGENCY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC received a statement from an organization that has so far not been identified and calls itself the Slovak Liberation Army [Slovenska oslobodzovacia armada].

The statement informs all citizens of the Slovak Republic, officers and soldiers in active service, as well as reservists, that from 1 May this year they are obliged to obey orders issued by the general staff of this army. At the same time, it states that if political developments between now and the end of this year do not point toward the full independence of the Slovak Republic, the above mentioned army is going to embark on combat operations.

This organization—which exists underground it at all—came to light for the first time in mid-February this year. Slovak National Council Chairman Frantisek Miklosko and Chief Military Prosecutor Miroslav Krizenecky described its statement as a provocation aimed at causing alarm and unsettling citizens.

Defense Ministry Questions Existence

LD2304202892 Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Czech 1600 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Miroslav Krizenecky, chief prosecutor general of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic, confirmed today that the case of the so-called Slovak Liberation Army was handed over to the military and civilian intelligence because its existence cannot be determined by the ordinary processes of the prosecution. Stefan Bacinksy, director of the Federal Security Information Service, confirmed that he received information from the chief of military intelligence about the rise of the alleged Slovak Liberation Army, which first appeared in February of this year.

The Slovak Liberation Army, which today announced the completion of its military organization structure, does not exist, according to Federal Defense Minister Lubos Dobrovsky. As Minister Dobrovsky said today in an interview with a CTK reporter, his allegation is based on military defense intelligence. No evidence has been collected to prove that there should be somebody other than the person who compiled the leaflet of the alleged Slovak Liberation Army.

Nobody has been found who could be a member of this army, Lubos Dobrovsky stressed. In his words, the Czechoslovak Army has not noted any activity that would demonstrate the existence of the Slovak Liberation Army. It is a provocation prior to the elections aimed at creating an atmosphere of hostility between Czechs and Slovaks. Whoever succumbs to such provocation supports this hostility. I do not intend to be one of

those who supports hostility between our peoples, Minister Dobrovsky concluded the interview.

Carnogursky Insists on Rule of Law

LD2404091392 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 0600 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky commented in London yesterday on the promulgation of the so-called Slovak Liberation Army concerning the buildup of its own military structure and its readiness for armed struggle. In this connection, he noted that the Slovak Government insists, and will continue to insist, on the preservation of the rule of law.

Nuclear Plant Explains Import of German Fuel

AU2104184592 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 15 Apr 92 p 3

[TR report: "More Fuel, No Waste; Dukovany-Bound 'Nuclear Train'"]

[Text] Dukovany—"It is true that five closed railroad cars from Germany have arrived in Dukovany. Their contents consisted of fresh fuel purchased from the decommissioned nuclear power station at Greifswald," Engineer F. Rerucha, head of the information center of the Dukovany nuclear power station, told RUDE PRAVO on Tuesday [14 April].

He was reacting to reports published by SEVERO-CESKY DENIK on 8 and 9 April about the arrival in Dukovany, via Decin, of a train with "nuclear waste" from Germany. Engineer Rerucha said that the Greifswald nuclear power station is going out of operation because of obsolescence of the VVER 230 reactors. This was an extraordinary purchase that was about 30 percent cheaper than the nuclear fuel that we otherwise import from Russia, he said. He also confirmed that only spent fuel from Dukovany will be deposited in the planned temporary storage depot on the nuclear power station's premises.

Atomic Energy Commission Issues Report

AU2404065892 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 21 Apr 92 p 3

[RS report: "Disquieting Level of Nuclear Safety"]

[Text] At a news conference in Prague on 17 April, members of the Czechoslovak Atomic Energy Commission (CSKAE) briefed reporters on the conclusions of the State Surveillance Agency for the safety of our nuclear power plants in 1991.

Engineer Zdenek Kriz, chief inspector of the State Surveillance Agency for nuclear safety, said the operation of all eight units (of nuclear reactors) in the Jaslovske Bohunice and Dukovany nuclear power stations was stable and reliable. As a result of accident protection measures, there were only eight unscheduled shutdowns in the year. The annual average of one shutdown per unit is an excellent rate, according to world criteria, and testifies, according to Z. Kriz, to the high level of the nuclear power stations' operation in the CSFR.

Last year, there were 327 incidents in the nuclear power stations. Of this, six were classified as level one (deviation) and one as level three (serious incident—specifically: the radiation incident in the shutdown Jaslovske Bohunice A1 nuclear power station). The international scale has eight grades, including zero. The remaining failures were classified as zero, that is, of no importance for safety.

The safety level of individual installations can also be estimated according to the so-called Limits and Conditions for Safe Operation, which were violated eight times last year. The majority of these violations were recorded in the Jaslovske Bohunice V1 nuclear power station, which indicates that the so-called special regime of operation—which should compensate for flaws in the design of these older units—is not completely effective.

On the basis of domestic and foreign expertise, it was decided in January 1991, that the V1 nuclear power station would not be shut down, but a so-called minor reconstruction would be carried on it between 1991 and 1992 that would make it possible to keep it operating until 1995. Some measures have been taken. The reconstruction is proceeding according to schedule. The minor reconstruction between 1991 and 1992 will require that each unit be completely shutdown twice for 100 to 120 days.

Engineer Kriz provided additional information that the Slovak Electric Power Generating Enterprise (SEP) intends to keep the two oldest units in operation after 1995 and to carry out a major reconstruction on them, which would make it possible to keep these units operating until 2005. The CSKAE is not overly excited by this decision, because it would require a technologically very demanding operation during which the two reactors would have to be filled with containment [preceeding word published in English] (protective material) and provided with an emergency cooling system. It would be the first time that such operation has been done on the water-moderated water-cooled [VVER] power reactors. A major reconstruction is demanding, not only technologically, but also financially. (Experts from Siemens estimate 250 to 300 million German marks per unit—editorial note.)

The greatest problem of the Czechoslovak nuclear power generation is the final shutdown of the Jaslovske Bohunice A1 nuclear power station. In the shut-down power station there are 131 used fuel rods and a large quantity of highly radioactive liquid solutions in containers, the extent of the damage of which cannot be ascertained.

The serious radioactive incident in the A1 nuclear power station mentioned above happened precisely during the manipulation of the spent fuel. During an accident

involving the floors in the reactor hall, the space underneath and, according to a CSK [expansion unknown] report, "radioactivity spread within the power station during the repair of the consequences of the accident." [sentence incomplete, as published]

This incident will slow down the transport of the spent fuel even more. This fuel is very expensive, since Russia demands $1.2 million for every four fuel rods. Regarding the radioactive fluids, Engineer Kriz said that "it is necessary to transform them into a dry and safe state." If the decision is made soon, and if there are financial means for it, then this objective could be achieved in 5 years. The installation for processing liquid radioactive waste is undergoing testing.

Securing a new temporary storage space for used radioactive fuel is no less complicated. The temporary storage area in Jaslovske Bohunice (other than that containing the damaged fuel rods) is 57 percent full (2,889 cases) and will be filled to capacity in 1994. A temporary new storage area should be built in Dukovany. This idea, however, has met with the resistance of local representative bodies, and therefore the final agreement is a compromise limiting the usability of the temporary storage area to 10 years. After 10 years, it will be necessary to expand the temporary storage area so that the spent fuel could be stored there for at least the lifetime of the Dukovany nuclear power station.

The shortage of temporary storage space could be solved by the so-called compact storage [kompaktni skladovani] of used fuel rods in the basins [bazeny] of individual units, from where they are transported to temporary storage places after a certain time. The capacity of basins can be increased by 50 percent as a result of compacting.

One of the few favorable reports by members of the commission relates to the primary cooling circuits of our nuclear power stations. Full-dimensional [plno rozmerove] tests have shown that the piping of the primary cooling circuit cannot rupture along its entire circumference, not even in a place were a fissure appears.

Data on Industrial Production Released

AU2204190492 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 17 Apr 92 p 3

[VL report: "The Decline Continues"]

[Text] According to calculations made by the Federal Statistical Office, overall industrial production (including small businesses and cooperatives with no more than 24 employees and including entrepreneurs who are not registered in the register of enterprises) dropped 36.1 percent in January and February, compared to the same period last year. In February, overall production was 33.4 percent lower than in February last year.

In enterprises with more than 25 employees, production was 37.2 percent lower than last year. The drop was sharper in the Slovak Republic (47.2 percent) than in the Czech Republic (31.0 percent). Except for the production of electricity, gas, and water all other processing industries suffered a decline.

An average number of workers employed in industry (in enterprises with more than 25 employees) declined 16.8 percent and labor productivity dropped 24.5 percent (17.6 percent in the Czech Republic, and 35.5 percent in the Slovak Republic). On the other hand, average monthly earnings in industry rose 20.8 percent in the first two moths of this year, compared with the same months last year (21.5 percent in the Czech Republic, and 18.9 percent in the Slovak Republic).

The overall sales in industry declined 39.6 percent (after price adjustment) in January and February, compared to the same period last year (of this, 28.6 percent in the Czech Republic and 56.5 percent in the Slovak Republic). Sales for export represented 19.5 percent of the total sales in the industry, and were, after the elimination of price influences, 2.9 percent higher against the comparable period last year (5.0 percent higher in the Czech Republic, and 1.0 lower in the Slovak Republic).

The building industry, too, is undergoing a long-lasting decline, despite the fact that this decline appears, in view of similar situations in recent years, to be lower than in the industrial sector. Compared to the first two months of last year, the production in the building industry dropped—again, according to the calculations made by the Federal Statistical Office—4.9 percent, and in the case of enterprises with more than 25 employees, 11 percent. The largest drop was recorded in repairs and maintenance (27.2 percent).

Retail sales (in current prices) in the first two months this year reached, according to calculations, 63.7 billion korunas, of this, 44.4 billion korunas in the Czech Republic and 19.3 billion korunas in the Slovak Republic. In this case, due to the price development and relatively low procurement at the beginning of last year—caused by the then introduced liberalization of prices—it is difficult and, above all, problematic, to compare these numbers with last year's figures.

Similarly, the data on the transportation of goods and performance of the transportation sector are also of informational value only. They are generally under the levels of comparable periods last year. If the transportation (in metric tonnes) declined 26.3 percent compared to January and February last year, and the performance (in tonne-kilometers) only 13.3 percent, then this means that the average transportation distance—in statistical terms—is getting longer. Yet, even this does not have to be true, since it is mainly heavy bulk commodities (construction materials)—transported to a short distance—which are not being transported [as published].

Pithart Denies Ordering Journalist Screening

AU2304161992 Bratislava SLOVENSKY DENNIK in Slovak 21 Apr 92 p 2

[CSTK report: "On the Initiative of the Federal Security and Information Service"]

[Text] Prague— Czech Prime Minister Petr Pithart did not request the screening of journalists. The director of the Federal Security and Information Service [FIS] merely submitted to him the results of his investigations, which he surely submitted to other constitutional officials as well. This was stated by the Czech prime minister in an interview for the 18 April issue of the daily PROSTOR [Realm], the only daily that has managed to obtain Pithart's reaction to the existence of a list of 262 journalists who are alleged to have been State Security Corps [StB] agents. The prime minister conceded that the list was drafted by the FIS on its own initiative.

"The results will be submitted to the next session of the Czech Government. However, I would not call this session a screening session. We definitely cannot make public the names of the positively screened journalists, nor can we punish the individuals in any way. That is hopefully clear to everyone," Petr Pithart told PROSTOR.

FIS Director Stefan Bacinsky announced that the CSFR and Slovak Republic Governments, and the Federal Assembly, Czech National Council, and Slovak National Council Presidiums, will receive similar lists. He confirmed that the FIS applies the same procedures also with respect to the Slovak Syndicate of Journalists.

Spokesman Comments on Bosnia-Hercegovina 'Crisis'

LD2404102492 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0900 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Hungary has been closely following the events in Bosnia-Hercegovina and has been in continuous contact with the United States and the EC, Balazs Laszlo said. The government spokesman pointed out that the government is monitoring the Bosnian crisis because the two countries initiated the UN Security Council emergency session and also because Hungary is a member of that body.

Balazs Laszlo stated that the government hopes the extremist elements will not use the general assembly of the Democratic Community of Magyars in Vojvodina, to be held in Toeroekkanizsa [Kanjiza] tomorrow, to create a provocation. The cabinet has received information about such plans, but it is happy to note that the Serbian Interior Ministry has promised to ensure the security of the meeting's venue.

Balazs Laszlo also announced that the government is now studying Czechoslovak Premier Marian Calfa's reply to Jozsef Antall on the Boes [Gabcikovo] water barrage issue.

No Official Reply From Czechoslovakia on Dam

LD2304200492 Budapest MTI in English 1809 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Budapest, April 23 (MTI)—Government spokesman Balazs Laszlo briefed journalists on Thursday's government session during a break in the cabinet meeting.

He said the Hungarian Government acknowledges "with amazement and disappointment that Czechoslovak Prime Minister Marian Calfa has still not replied to the letter of Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, although it was written several weeks ago.,

In the letter, Antall detailed the government's position on the Gabcikovo Dam project, and asked to be informed of the Czechoslovak Cabinet's opinion in several extremely important matters—including halting the construction in progress on the Slovak side.

"The Hungarian Government cannot take a meaningful stand on the matter of the power plant as long as it does not receive an official reply to its questions," Laszlo said.

The delay is considered particularly strange in light of the fact that Hans Andriessen, member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Brussels Commission of the EC, French President Francois Mitterrand and British Prime Minister John Major—who was also informed of the Hungarian position by the prime minister—have all replied to Antall's letter.

Andriessen stressed in his letter that the European Communities' commission is ready in principle to participate in expert talks as a third party. However, this will happen only if both sides concerned request it.

It is also necessary that neither government take major steps in resolving the issue of the power plant while the planning committee is working.

Laszlo said that if projects which violate the contract are not stopped by the Slovaks by April 30, and the Czechoslovak side does not give a meaningful reply to Hungarian proposals, the National Assembly will oblige the government to revoke the 1977 Hungarian-Czechoslovak bilateral inter-state contract.

The Hungarian Government also decided to conclude an agreement with Czechoslovakia and Poland on cooperation between all three Visegrad countries' administrations, in the interest of implementing EC agreements.

This implies that regulators which are in force between individual EC members and the common market—including such information as where products and materials are made—will come into effect also in terms of trade between the three countries.

Jeszenszky on Talks With Slovak Minister

LD2304100992 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1630 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky by correspondent Evelyn Forro; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Jeszenszky] I think the Hungarian-Czechoslovak talks, including Hungarian-Slovak talks, will never reach any conclusions because there will always be a wide range of issues to be discussed between the two neighboring countries. The fact that we have just met with a minister in charge of Slovak foreign relations indicates that there are issues which at this level can surely be discussed and perhaps be settled more quickly than at the federal level.

Hungary, of course, will not intervene in any questions concerning the nature or future of Czech-Slovak relations. What will always be of great importance for us, however, is that we have a continuous dialogue with our Slovak neighbor, a state or country having a considerable Magyar minority, and that issues really requiring a solution be regularly discussed. [passage omitted]

The main issues under discussion concerned the population on both sides of the border, such as border crossing points, the expansion of economic relations, and the promotion of joint ventures. We also covered such questions as Slovak-Hungarian educational and cultural ties. [passage omitted]

Moreover, we discussed certain regional international problems; namely, our relations with Ukraine, with reference to the cooperation between the sub-Carpathian region and the areas along the border and the achievements of the Hungarian consulate in Ungvar

[Uzhgorod]. There was also mention of the Yugoslav crisis because, after all, both sides are very interested in seeing that peace and the rights of minorities are preserved and implemented in Vojvodina. A significant Magyar minority of 400,000 people and tens of thousands of Slovaks live in southern Vojvodina.

[Forro] Could you say something about the opening of new border crossing points?

[Jeszenszky] This year we will open three crossing points, and I hope that next year there will be more. [passage omitted]

Cultural and educational issues depend on the determination and readiness of the present and future Slovak governments. On behalf of the Hungarian Government, we emphasized, and were able to demonstrate, our readiness and the great strides we have made to ensure that educational facilities are as good as possible for the Slovak community in our country, a community that is more dispersed and much smaller than the Hungarian community in Slovakia.

[Forro] Does the Hungarian Government or the Hungarian Foreign Ministry have a strategy for an independent Slovakia?

[Jeszenszky] Of course, we have to plan for the future, but I do not think this is the best forum to discuss an issue that, at the moment, is only theoretical.

Slovak Foreign Minister on Bilateral Relations

LD2304111792 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1630 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Interview with Slovak Foreign Minister Pavol Demes by correspondent Evelyn Forro; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] According to the law on competence, foreign affairs is a matter of federal authority. Does the fact that a Ministry of International Relations exists in Slovakia mean that Slovakia pursues an independent foreign policy, or wants to do so in the future?

[Demes, in Slovak, fading into Hungarian translation] The Czech Republic established the Ministry of International Relations about a month and a half ago. Thus, there are already two ministries of this kind at republic level, and, of course, there is the federal Foreign Ministry also. All three have precisely defined areas of authority and activity. This, to my mind, corresponds to the present federative order of Czechoslovakia and to the road of future development also. I do not think there is anything peculiar in this, because the same kind of system works in other countries, in Belgium, for example. In my country, both republics shape and form their national interests in foreign relations, but at the same time, they share a joint foreign policy also. To be brief, Slovakia is not developing an independent foreign policy, but in central Europe she establishes her own relations.

[Correspondent] What are the chances of creating an autonomous Slovakia after the June elections? Will the Visegrad three become a foursome ?

[Demes] In our view, the cooperation of the three is cooperation between three countries consisting of four nations. In this three, Slovakia wishes to be a partner. I explained this to Foreign Minister Jeszenszky, and I noted a certain understanding. This is the present reality. As to what is going to happen after June, we can only speculate. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What sort of principle do you advocate in the issue of nationalities, the principle of reciprocity? And do you consider the Magyar community living in Slovakia to be a state-forming nation?

[Demes] Our nationality policy tries to comply with European norms—I am thinking first of all of the (?Copenhagen Codex). We try to enforce these principles in bilateral relations, basically with the countries where national minorities live.

[Correspondent] Forgive me, this may be so in principle, but practice seems to be different. Since last year, you have adopted a language law that protects the language of the majority but not that of the minority. There is no law like this anywhere else in Europe, because everywhere else the language of the minority is protected.

[Demes] I think that we will adhere to European norms after the elections. I do not expect any difference between what happens after the elections and what happens before them. This is also a reply to your previous question. As regards use of the Hungarian language in areas of mixed population, I think we did not violate the norms. For example, in villages where the ratio of Magyar nationality exceeds 20 percent, they can use their language even in official communications. I do not think it is asking much of Hungarians to learn Slovak, and we would be very glad to see the Magyars of Slovakia learning Slovak because communications with the rest of the population would be a lot easier, a lot more direct.

Hungarian Envoy on CSCE Conference Issues

LD2404093892 Budapest MTI in English 1524 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Budapest, April 22 (MTI)—To create a system of security guarantees, a European crisis-handling mechanism, and to have ethnic minority affairs handled as a security issue were the three goals set by Hungarian diplomats working in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Envoy Istvan Gyarmati told the press after a briefing by the foreign affairs spokesman today that it is good news CSCE member states accepted Hungary's proposal to

handle ethnic minority affairs as a security issue. Such an approach enables the CSCE to use more efficient methods to improve ethnic minorities, living conditions, and to prevent national and international conflicts stemming from minority issues.

Acceptance of the proposal has facilitated the CSCE to put the issue of the Hungarian community in Vojvodina on its agenda as part of Yugoslav developments. The Hungarian delegation supports a Netherlands proposal to appoint a chief commissioner in charge of ethnic minority affairs.

Answering a question from the MTI news export desk, Gyarmati said the chief commissioner can help resolve crises at an early stage by personal authority and "silent diplomacy". After investigating facts, the chief commissioner can help the different sides start negotiations without a loss of prestige, and if that fails, he or she can apply to higher CSCE forums.

Only a few states have objected in advance to appointing a chief commissioner. Others have mentioned legal objections because they reject any outside legal authority to be placed over national legal authorities in any issue. In another development, a European military security forum will be launched in Vienna this September to coordinate military, disarmament and security talks conducted previously at separate forums, Gyarmati said. Progress has also been achieved in creating a crisis-handling mechanism, he added.

Gyarmati told the press about a new phenomenon in which the CSCE, acting as a political umbrella organization, holds together European political organizations.

Ministry Official Discusses Trade With China

LD2404102792 Budapest MTI in English 0756 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Budapest, April 23 (MTI)—Chinese-Hungarian trade is on the decline, with a particularly sharp drop in Hungarian exports, a Hungarian International Economic Relations Ministry official told MTI before a visit to China by Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky on 27 April.

Last year, Hungarian exports to China were worth 17.5 million US dollars, and imports 39.5 million dollars. Hungary's main export to China is machinery and it imports mainly consumer goods.

Since 1 January 1991, trade between the two countries has been accounted in convertible currency, as compared to the earlier practice settlement in clearing Swiss francs. China still has an outstanding debt of 100 million Swiss francs left over from the previous arrangement, which it plans to settle by goods deliveries.

No inter-state trade agreement was signed for this year. One reason is that it is not economic for Hungarian private companies to deliver goods so far afield. No Chinese-Hungarian joint venture has been launched to date but there are several Chinese companies operating in Hungary, mainly in the catering industry and in trade.

Byelarussian Prime Minister Arrives on Visit

LD2304112692 Warsaw PAP in English 0922 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Warsaw, April 23—A Byelarussian Government delegation, led by Byelarussian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, came on a two-day visit to Warsaw Thursday morning.

Byelarussian Premier Kebich is to meet his Polish counterpart Jan Olszewski in the morning. Afterwards, plenary talks are to be held at the office of the Council of Ministers. A meeting of Byelarussian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko with his Polish counterpart Krzysztof Skubiszewski is also envisaged.

Both sides will also initial a treaty on good-neighbourly relations between Poland and Byelarus.

Treaty Initialled

LD2304165592 Warsaw PAP in English 1408 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Warsaw, April 23—A Polish-Byelarussian treaty on good neighbourliness and friendly cooperation was initialled here on Thursday in the course of a visit by a Byelarussian Government delegation headed by Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich.

Byelarussian Foreign Minister Piotr Kravchanka expects the treaty to be promptly signed by Polish and Byelarussian heads of state, and says the relations between the two countries have reached a point where the documents only need to be filled with essence.

According to Iwo Byczewski of the Polish Foreign Ministry, the treaty is a vital document, since a declaration on mutual relations signed last fall is no longer sufficient. Byczewski said the treaty provides important principles relating to cross-border cooperation, trade, rights and obligations of ethnic minorities, protection of authors' rights and patents, and "it paves way for detailed measures."

Before the treaty was initialled, the two prime ministers had had a face-to-face meeting for a quarter of an hour, and later held talks with the core of both delegations to discuss the treaty and "issues going far into the future, a 10-year perspective included," as the Polish Government spokesman put it. The sides also considered prospects for retransmitting their tv programmes on a mutual basis. "Strictly political matters were tackled behind closed doors," the spokesman said.

While commenting on his talks with Olszewski, Prime Minister Kebich said: "There was not a single point on which we differed in the course of our talks." He added that apart from initialling the treaty, the sides are going to sign enough documents during the visit to let mutual relations develop. The remaining ones will be drafted and signed shortly, he declared.

The Polish prime minister, Jan Olszewski, described his talks with the Byelarussian delegation as "very effective, though they only marked the first stage." He said contacts between the two countries were discussed in "a comprehensive way," and added that Byelarus is interested in being allowed to use Polish sea ports for its commercial activity. "In this connection, we considered the possibility of opening a Byelarussian consulate in (the northern Polish port city of) Gdynia," Olszewski said.

Walesa: Willing To Give Mazowiecki 3 Ministries

LD2304163692 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1305 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] During a break in the Sejm meeting today, President Walesa consulted leaders of the parliamentary floor groups and gave interviews. He was asked, among other things, about the government coalition. He said that he would have given Tadeusz Mazowiecki authority over three key ministries that at the moment are subordinated to the president's office: the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Interviewed in a different part of the Sejm building, Tadeusz Mazowiecki replied that it was a pity he was not told about this earlier.

Mieczyslaw Wachowski, who received little coverage in yesterday's GAZETA WYBORCZA, was also seen in the Sejm corridors. He was smiling, was in good form, and was even seen giving an interview to Ewa Milewicz from GAZETA WYBORCZA.

Discusses 'Supraparty' Cabinet

LD2304195592 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1730 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] President Lech Walesa has said at a press conference at the Sejm that he will decide whether to take over the initiative of building a government coalition after meeting with the premier.

[Unidentified correspondent] I wouldn't like to change Jan Olszewski but democracy must be effective, the president said. He added that the time is approaching to answer the question: Why did the nation elect the president and the parliament? Lech Walesa admitted that he did not envision Mieczyslaw Wachowski, the head of his office, departing from the Belvedere Palace.

[Begin Walesa recording] He is one of the better people, who takes all the bad things on himself. [end recording]

Earlier, the president met with Leszek Moczulski, leader of the Confederation for an Independent Poland [KPN]. According to Moczulski, the president said that without the KPN, one could not talk of serious political line-ups in Poland.

The president is supposed to have told the next guest, Tadeusz Mazowiecki of the Democratic Union [UD],

that the 1 May demostrations announced for tomorrow could cause a further destabilization of the country. According to the UD leader, the president thinks that Jan Olszewski's government will not hold on for long and that it will be necessary to talk of a supraparty cabinet.

[Begin recording] [Walesa] I think that it will come to this arrangement, to supraparty government and this government will only take into account the country's interest and not that of groups or parties.

[Correspondent] Does supraparty government mean a government formed with some kind of participation by the president and, if so, what?

[Walesa] Of course! It is becoming more and more evident that I will have to think about and create a supraparty line-up, which will solve these problems. Parliament, on the other hand, will always have control over this, but it will above all supply laws and possibilities to this government quickly.

[Correspondent] Is this plan ready yet?

[Walesa] Not yet, in fact. We are a few days in advance, probably, but we ought to be talking about this already.

[Correspondent] In practice, does this solution mean in any way curtailing the role of parliament? If so, again: How?

[Walesa] No, it's not like that. Parliament is first and foremost the legislature: it keeps watch over implementating and checking whether the government isn't departing from legislation—and the government is more precise, quicker, and more logical. There is no conflict here. This is cleaning up a system that should be cleaned up.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that the president has a candidate for premier?

[Walesa] It would be a bad thing if I didn't have, but then again democracy and the conditions we live under have to be taken into account.

[Correspondent] What does that mean?

[Walesa] We won't go into that. What is needed today is someone who is capable of reaching mutual understanding; someone who is not entangled in party arrangements, but just in solving problems. Such people do exist.

[Correspondent] Do you mean Premier Olszewski or somebody else?

[Walesa] No, we can't put forward any possibilities today, because Premier Olszewski is there and parliament is there and there is democracy. But all of this is already leading us in the direction of certain solutions, so to speak, and I think that logic will prompt the solutions here. [end recording]

[Announcer] During the conference at the Sejm, President Lech Walesa also said that the issue of Minister Parys was a foregone conclusion. In the name of the national interest, only one decision can be taken, Lech Walesa added, indicating here that filling the post of minister of national defense is also in the power of the premier and that no final decisions have yet been taken.

Sejm Discussion of Constitution, Law Reported

LD2304185992 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1515 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Today, the Sejm concentrated on draft constitutional laws. In accordance with the draft the constitution is to be adopted by the nation through a referendum; the right to propose a draft new constitution belongs to the Constitutional Commission, any group of 56 members of the National Assembly, and the president of the Polish Republic.

The deputies were supportive of the draft presented by the legislative committee, nonetheless they made amendments and submitted observations; for example that should the nation reject the draft new constitution in a referendum, the Sejm should be dissolved on the strength of the law; that the principles of the social and economic system should also be agreed by referendum. Opinions were also voiced that the required majority for adopting the constitution should be lowered.

A motion also was presented today to the effect that the government should be allowed legislative initiative in the matter of the constitution.

The president was at the meeting and listened to the discussion. Later he met the Solidarity of Labor Parliamentary Floor Group and then, one after the other, Leszek Moczulski, Janusz Korwin-Mikke, and Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who, during a news conference, he termed one of the better mediators.

The president told journalists that only after his meeting with Prime Minister Olszewski would he make up his mind as to whether he would take over the initiative in building the coalition.

Asked about Minister Wachowski, Walesa stated that he is one of the better people. He takes upon himself all the bad things. He could not, added the president, improve on any policy; he only carries out the recommendations and the concepts of the president. Lech Walesa does not envisage the departure of Minister Wachowski from the Belvedere; on the other hand, the matter of Minister Parys is a foregone conclusion.

The president demands efficiency from the Cabinet; he would not like to change the prime minister. To the union members who will be protesting outside the Belvedere tomorrow he will say: I feel I am a member of Solidarity.

[Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish at 1600 GMT on 23 April reports: "The Sejm today passed the

constitutional law on the procedure for drawing up and adopting the Constitution of the Polish Republic. A total of 313 deputies voted for the law, 47 were against, and 14 abstained. The result of the vote means that the Sejm Constitutional Commission will not now be set up."]

New Procedure for Preparing Constitution Detailed

LD2404020992 Warsaw PAP in English 2325 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Warsaw, April 23—Members of the Sejm (lower house) passed an act on the preparation and adoption procedure for the new Polish constitution during Thursday's debate which was attended by President Lech Walesa. The procedure is that a committee representing the National Assembly (upper and lower houses) will collect proposals of the constitution during six months. The proposals can be submitted by the constitutional committee, 56 assembly members, and the president but not the government. Then the Sejm will discuss the main questions of political system, the National Assembly will adopt it, and next, a nationwide referendum will be held. The adopted law does not specify what happens if the constitution is rejected by the referendum. The procedure was adopted with 313 votes in favour, 47 against, and 14 abstentions.

Sejm Debates Constitutional Tribunal Verdict

LD2404021792 Warsaw PAP in English 2353 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Warsaw, April 23—The Sejm's (lower house's) dispute on the verdict of the constitutional tribunal on Thursday was quite dramatic for the deputies whose duty is to defend both, the state of law and the public finance, which in this case are two mutually exclusive things. Finance Minister Andrzej Olechowski said before the debate that the government had realized infeasibility of the tribunal's ruling which involves spending extra 60 trillion zlotys (4.4 billion dollars) and increasing the deficit from the planned 5 to 9.5 percent of the GNP. Major parties represented in the Sejm formed two groups, one intending to support, the other to vote against adoption of the verdict. The Democratic Union (UD) will wait with their decision until the government produces a plan to solve the problem. Deputies of the Confederation for Independent Poland (KPN), Democratic Left Alliance (SLD), Peasant Party (PSL), Real Politics Union (UPR), and Party "X" want the verdict implemented, while the Christian National Union (ZChN), Centre Alliance (PC), Liberal Democratic Congress (KLD), Christian Democratic Party (ChD), and Polish Economic Programme (PPG) are against.

Economic Policy Committee Requests Explanations

LD2204202692 Warsaw PAP in English 2155 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Warsaw, April 21—The Sejm Committee for Economic Policy, Budget and Finance, while analysing on Tuesday means earmarked for some ministries and state institutions, recorded inaccuracies and gaps in presented information and asked the government for additional explanations.

The Committee urged the ministry of labour and social policy to present precise reports on ways the unemployment allowances are to be granted and on how savings amounting to 10 trillion zlotys (USD 740 million) are to be secured.

The Committee made also reservations about the Foreign Ministry draft budget, especially concerning the ministry additional revenues.

The Committee announced that its proposals concerning the division of the reserve capital amounting to 400 billion zlotys (USD 30 million) would be make public after an analysis of applications by ministries and institutions which are requesting additional funds, including the Polish Press Agency (PAP), which asks for additional 60 billion zlotys (USD 4.4 million) for investments.

Farmers' 'Self-Defense' Union Continues Protest

LD2404101492 Warsaw PAP in English 2314 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Warsaw, April 22—Teams preventing the seizure of indebted farms, organized by members of the "Self-Defence" Farmers' Union protesting in the Ministry of Agriculture, left Warsaw for the Sieradz, Wloclawek, Zamosc and Poznan provinces on Wednesday.

The decision to send such groups was dictated by the lack of solutions that would facilitate the repayment of farmers' debts and steps leading to the suspension of the seizure of property of indebted farmers, explained chairman of the "Self-Defence" Andrzej Lepper.

Spokesman for the "Self-Defence" Farmers' Union Pawel Skorski said that about 200 people, including eleven hunger strikers, were continuing their protest at the Agriculture Ministry on Wednesday.

Also on Wednesday, a group of some twenty members and supporters of the Polish National Community organized a demonstration in front of the Ministry of Agriculture to support the action staged by the "Self-Defence" Farmers' Union. Protesters demanded "the repayment of farmers' debts" and "the suspension of the seizure of farmers's land."

Later in the day, members of the Sejm (lower house) committee for agriculture and food economy met at the Sejm building with representatives of farmers staging the protest action at the Agricultural Ministry. The committee proposed that an extraordinary committee for talks with the farmers' unions be created by the premier. The committee would be responsible for talks on the future of agriculture and demands put forward by the "Self-Defence" Farmers' Union.

Meanwhile, the Council of Ministers—after analysing the current socio-economic situation in the country, decided not to hold negotiations with protesting farmers. "The government will not talk to a group of people who uses illegal methods," head of the government press bureau Zbigniew Rykowski said after the Council of Ministers' session.

Olszewski Criticizes Sit-in

LD2304211192 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1730 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Prime Minister Jan Olszewski unequivocally terms the action of the Farmers' Self-Defense Union illegal and, therefore, excluded from the possibility of normal negotiations. This was announced by a press spokesman of the Ministry of Agriculture. He stated that despite immediate and (?systematic) actions by the Ministry to free the farming community from its debts and their giving full information on the subject to protesters, there are no signs of goodwill on the demonstrator's part to end the illegal sit-in in some parts of the Ministry's building.

The spokesman added that at a meeting of representatives of the Agriculture Ministry and other ministries, the text of the draft law on the fund for restructuring and freeing agriculture from debt was agreed. This document is to be considered by the Council of Ministers this coming Tuesday.

Report on Parys Expected 'Later This Week'

LD2404030792 Warsaw PAP in English 0015 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Warsaw, April 23—The prime minister's special commission will produce an official report on the controversy around Defence Minister Jan Parys later this week, chief of the Sejm committee for national defence Maciej Zalewski (Centre Alliance) said after the commission meeting on Thursday. The Sejm committee for national defence wants to be the first organ to read the report, Zalewski added.

Also on Thursday, the Democratic Left (ex-communist) parliamentary floor group asked the government to abandon education minister's decree which makes religion an obligatory subject in Polish schools. Leftist deputies argued that schools should teach tolerance.

The Sejm sent a draft law on local accounting offices to respective Sejm committees. Only Deputy Lech Pruchno-Wroblewski of Real Politics Union wanted the whole bill rejected because, he said, it violates the very principle of local government.

The Sejm also decided to examine the government-proposed main directions of privatization in 1992 at its next meeting planned for the first half of May.

Jaruzelski, Michnik Appear on French TV

LD2304202292 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1730 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Adam Michnik and Wojciech Jaruzelski appeared together yesterday in the French television program "Le Marche du Siecle," which is modelled on an American (?talk show).

[Unidentified correspondent] Both persecutor and persecuted were to have spoken, together with other participants in the program, about atrocities, forgiveness, and the pain of victims. They were going to, but only General Jaruzelski in fact agreed to reply to questions, putting forward the theses with which we have become well acquainted. Adam Michnik refused to say what he feels today about his former opponent. He did not want, as he put it, to bare his soul on French television, and altogether criticized the idea of placing the motif of Polish forgiveness in a program in which politics and history were mixed with rape and murder. His reservations, which for many viewers took the form of aggressive complaints, were clearly not understood. The fact that Michnik refused to reply caused amazement, even though he had earlier agreed to take part in the program. He himself claims that he had not expected that he would be placed in such a position.

Nevertheless, in the final part of the program he made a number of remarks concerning forgiveness, which is what had been expected. He said in particular that bringing Jaruzelski to trial as Ceaucescu was brought to trial would be a scandal.

Today's papers were silent on the subject of last night's program, although French journalists are exceptionally well disposed toward Michnik—that could perhaps, of course, be precisely why they are silent. The French publisher of the general's new book, also containing a conversation between Michnik and Jaruzelski, will doubtless be the one who gains most from the joint television appearance of the two guests from Poland.

'Small Coalition' May Organize Council

LD2404030392 Warsaw PAP in English 0016 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Warsaw, April 23—Leader of the Liberal Democrats Donald Tusk did not rule out on Thursday that the small coalition of the Democratic Union, Liberal Democratic Congress, and the "Big Beer" Party (Polish economic programme) may set up a council by Friday which will work out a permanent political contract. Donald Tusk also did not rule out expanding the small coalition by including pro-reform groups, such as Christian Democrats, German minority, or part of the Centre Alliance.

Acceptance of Cease-Fire Announced

AU2304161292 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] As we have already reported, the talks of the EC delegation with the leaders of the ruling Bosnia-Hercegovina parties at the Sarajevo Airport ended an hour ago.

Let us listen to what Portuguese Foreign Minister Pinheiro said at the end of the talks to the reporters present:

[Begin Pinheiro recording, in English with superimposed Serbo-Croatian translation] (?All leaders) of the parties (?emphasized) that they are willing to sign a declaration that consists of two essential points this afternoon.

1. They accept the cease-fire that was agreed upon on (?12 April) and state that they will do their utmost in order that the cease-fire becomes a real [word indistinct].

2. They are willing to resume talks on a future constitutional solution for Bosnia-Hercegovina under the chairmanship of Ambassador Cutilheiro on 27 April in Lisbon. We plan to hold a detailed discussion about the time needed to reach a final agreement on the constitution of Bosnia-Hercegovina; however, this round of talks will only be held on the condition that the cease-fire is observed from the moment that this declaration is made public, which is a very important condition. [end recording]

Some Fighting Continues

AU2404085692 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Despite the truce agreement that was signed yesterday by the leaders of the three national parties of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Sarajevo was last night a center of fierce fighting. It is quite certain that the cease-fire was not respected, but to update the situation in the whole republic let us call our reporter Irfan Caura at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Good morning, Irfan.

[Caura] I can definitely say good morning. According to information that the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Bosnia-Hercegovina has, the situation is more or less the following:

The truce that was signed last night is being respected in Bosanska Krupa. In Bosanski Brod, that great fire [words indistinct] is under control. There were several [word indistinct]. We will (?report) more detailed information at 1200 [1000 GMT].

We do not have any contact with Zvornik and we are trying to establish contact. Foca and Visegrad are peaceful and there is no shooting. Mostar and Capljina are peaceful and there is no shooting. [Word indistinct] peaceful. You will probably hear information about Sarajevo from the Security Services Center [words indistinct].

Serbians Claim Agreement Observed

LD2404090192 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0150 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Sarajevo, April 23 (TANJUG)—President of the Serbian Democratic Party of Bosnia-Hercegovina Radovan Karadzic said on Thursday evening that the Serbian territorial defence was strictly observing the signed ceasefire declaration and that its forces were not taking part in the fierce armed battles which are still being waged in the Bosnia-Hercegovina capital Sarajevo.

The leaders of the three leading national parties in Bosnia-Hercegovina on Thursday signed a declaration on a ceasefire in the republic.

Karadzic said he believed para-military formations which were acting outside the command of those who participated in the meeting with chairman of the peace conference on Yugoslavia Lord Carrington were shooting.

The capturing of territory leads nowhere because what has been taken by force will not be taken into consideration in the drawing of territorial boundaries in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Karadzic said.

This is the stand of the Serbian Democratic Party of Bosnia-Hercegovina, he added.

France Starts Regular Aid Flights

AU2404073492 Paris AFP in English 0422 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Sarajevo, April 24 (AFP)—Bernard Kouchner, France's minister for health and humanitarian action, flew into Bosnia- Hercegovina on Thursday and said his country was to start regular aid flights to the republic

Kouchner, who arrived here on a plane carrying 25 tonnes of food and drugs for victims of the civil war, said he had reached agreement with the Bosnian authorities on the flights.

He spoke after meetings with President Alija Izetbegovic, Prime Minister Jure Pelivan and Muhamed Kresevljakovic, the mayor of Sarajevo. The minister also visited the headquarters of the United Nations force which is deploying in neighbouring Croatia.

A French official said practical arrangements were already being made for the provision of the French aid, which could be distributed under the protection of U.N. forces and European Community observers in the republic.

The French were also due to help evacuate women and children from Bosnia's war zones. Some 100 were taken out of Sarajevo to Belgrade on Thursday, and 200 more were to be evacuated on Friday, officials said.

More Fighting Breaks Out in Sarajevo

AU2304211092 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Mirsad Tokaca report from Sarajevo Public Security Station]

[Text] The ink has practically not even dried yet on the paper that was signed today when the shooting resumed in Sarajevo. A few hours after aircraft with the European and world envoys took off, the shooting started again. Specifically, a fierce attack was carried out about two hours ago on Hrasnica, Sokolovic colony, and Butmir. This settlement—it is probably clear to everyone that it is mostly Muslims who live there—was attacked from the direction of Vojkovic. It is being pounded by rocket launchers, tanks, and cannons from the region of Lukavica, and from the direction of Ilidza. Fierce battles are continuing there right now.

Attacks Said Diminishing

LD2404093292 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Report from Sarajevo by Slavko Rako for Croatian radio]

[Text] According to the latest information, the attacks on the Sarajevo districts of Sokolovic Kolonija, Hrasnica, and Butmir in the municipality of Ilidza, which are mainly inhabited by Muslims, have died down. In other areas of the town, at least in the town center, efforts are being made to establish some kind of normal life. Some city bus lines are operating, and trams are running from Cengic Vila to the railroad station, covering roughly a third of the town center. The city post office has asked postmen to come to work if there is no risk to their personal safety, so that efforts can be made to distribute pensions for March. Employees in some other city enterprises have also been sent calls to work.

At this moment, however, Radio Sarajevo is broadcasting a live statement from Colonel Vehbija Karic. He has informed the public about the ultimatum issued by Serbian terrorists to the inhabitants of the Gornji Kotorac District and to members of the territorial defense that they should hand over their weapons. He called on citizens not to do this, and gave the same order to the members of territorial defense units.

As you have heard, the situation in Sarajevo is changing from one moment to the next, and that, it appears, is the aim of the aggressor.

Fighting, Explosions Heard in Bosanski Brod

AU2304185692 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Omihana Bacic report from Bosanski Brod]

[Excerpt] Gunfire from all sorts of artillery weapons is being opened from [place name indistinct], (?Unka), Zboriste and other Serbian villages.

Even today Bosanski Brod has been exposed to an enemy attack, an attack that is not choosing its victims and targets. An oil refinery was hit again today, but thanks to quick intervention this fire was localized and extinguished.

Yesterday and today, the enemy damaged electrical power lines that are feeding electricity to the Bosanski Brod commune; therefore, the town has been without electricity and water for nearly 24 hours. Telephone communications are hampered.

New victims for the freedom of Bosanski Brod and Bosnia-Hercegovina are falling in Kolibe today. Defenders are successfully resisting all enemy charges, however, and they are holding firmly the defense line.

As I report to you, powerful explosions can also be heard in the town center. [passage omitted]

Refinery Hit by Missiles

LD2304215192 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Fajgl]

[Excerpt] At precisely 1944 this evening, at the time of an increased artillery attack by the Serbian aggressor from its stronghold in the so-called Serbian municipality of Bosanski Brod, production halls of the oil refinery in this city were hit for the second time today with two missiles. Flames about 100 meters high and thick black smoke appeared over Bosanski Brod, which looks like a ghost town in this dark night. A powerful explosion, which also shook the neighboring Slavonski Brod, shattered windows on several multistorey buildings. As I am speaking, firemen are exerting superhuman efforts to overcome the blaze while under artillery attack.

Due to the proximity of gas storage tanks, the population of Slavonski and Bosanski Brod was warned by the Free Bosnia-Bosanski Brod Studio [Slobodna Bosna-Studio Bosanski Brod] of the possible danger of an ecological catastrophe—which I believe will not happen because the firemen are keeping the blaze under control and their efforts to contain it are increasingly successful. [passage omitted]

Shooting, Damage Reported in Mostar

AU2304155292 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Omer Vatric report from Mostar]

[Excerpt] The situation in Mostar is increasingly more difficult. Shooting continues, and it is growing more intense. During the night, grenades hit the [word indistinct] in the town center and several houses [words indistinct] hospital on the (?Bijeli Brijeg). Hundreds of houses have been riddled by fire from snipers and anti-aircraft machine guns. There are also (?unexploded grenades) lying around. There is less and less food, and resupply is becoming increasingly difficult.

Through enormous efforts of the employees of the Mostar electricity board and water board the town still has a supply of water and electricity.

This morning at 0100 it seems that the last big industrial complex in Bosnia-Hercegovina, which still somehow managed to maintain production, has fallen. The aluminum complex on which some 50,000 people directly or indirectly depend, was forcefully closed. Its directors say that accurate artillery hits shortly after midnight destroyed vital facilities that were supplying the aluminum factory in [place name indistinct] with electrical energy. [passage omitted]

2 Reported Killed

LD2304225692 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2204 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Mostar, April 23 (TANJUG)—Strong fire from small arms was reported in Mostar on Thursday evening, said the Mostar Security Centre controlled by Muslims and Croats.

Mostar is a [words indistinct] parts of the Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

According to so far unconfirmed information, two people were killed and four were wounded in the clashes. The centre released no other details on the [word indistinct]. The centre also said that sniper fire was opened on the offices in which Mostar Mayor Milivoje Gagro was meeting with representatives of the towns' committee for peace. No casulties were reported.

It is not known who opened fire at the participants of the meeting.

The meeting was aimed at reaching agreement on establishing contacts between the confronted sides in order to return [words indistinct]

Radio Mostar this evening broadcast a new statement by the so-called Croatian Council for the Defence of Mostar, which said that its units were capable of offering resistance and striking a blow at the enemy.

The statement was signed by the Mostar Crisis Committee, which is loyal to the rump presidency of Bosnia-Hercegovwna (Serbs are no longer represented on that body) and represents itself as the the town's defender and protector of the interests of all its residents.

'Green Berets' Said Attacking Lukavica Barracks

AU2304220592 Sarajevo Radio Sarajevo Network in Serbo-Croatian 2107 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Telephone interview with Captain Miladin Petrovic of the Yugoslav Army by unidentified studio announcer; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Finally, this is Captain Miladin Petrovic from the Second Military District on the line. Good evening.

[Petrovic] Good evening!

[Announcer] What can be done to stop this shooting that is aimed at Butmir, the Sokolovic colony, and Hrasnica?

[Petrovic] First I will give you information that you perhaps did not know or did not carry yet. This evening the Green Berets and other paramilitary formations under the command of the Territorial Defense of Bosnia-Hercegovina started a general assault on the barracks in Lukavica, Sarajevo, and they are already preparing a general assault on the Command of the Second Military District. At 2250, the first grenades started to fall around the Command of the Second Military District. The Command of the Second Military District is therefore warning that if this does not stop it will respond to the attack with all available means. Any commentary is superfluous.

[Announcer] Shall we nevertheless talk about peace and not war? We have information, you could hear it in our program, that gunfire is directed at the Sokolovic colony, Hrasnica, and Butmir...

[Petrovic, interrupting] Mister, first ask those who are attacking the barracks in Lukavica and who are preparing an attack on the Command of Second Military District what they are doing, and then we will talk. [passage omitted]

Foca Serbs Threaten Action

AU2304091992 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Velibor Ostojic report from Foca]

[Text] The Serbian people of the Foca region are indignant about yesterday's reporting by some agencies on the supposed genocide of Muslim people. Such news is really only lies and untruths. We categorically reject such accusations. No one is touching or endangering the civilian population or their property.

No one can guarantee or accept that individuals who are turning their apartments or houses or sacred premises into military facilities can remain unpunished. The Serbian Territorial Defense of the Foca region is taking action only against this kind of fighting in order to establish peace and total control as soon as possible on the whole territory of the Foca commune.

However, the Serbian people of the Foca area are demanding an immediate end to the terror and violence and killing of the innocent population of Sarajevo and Ilidza and acceptance of Dr. Karadzic's platform. If this is not respected by 1200 today, the forces of the Serbian Territorial Defense of this part of old Hercegovina will take energetic action to liberate the Serbian population in Sarajevo.

It is unbelievable that the leaders of the Party of Democratic Action have not responded to the proposal of the Crisis Headquarters of the Serbian people of Foca on establishing the number of captives and their exchange. That is to say, people here suspect that there have been several killings among the innocent and enslaved Serbian population on the territory of Kozja Luka.

Likewise, the Serbian people of the Foca region are calling on the leaders of the Party of Democratic Action in Sarajevo not to threaten prominent Serbs in Sarajevo. They are also telling them that well-known Muslims from Foca can only be exchanged for prominent people from the ranks of the Serbs in Sarajevo who have been seized in defiance of all norms of civilized behavior.

Muslims, Croats Said Seeking To Expand Conflict

LD2304173792 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1406 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Belgrade, April 23 (TANJUG)—The situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina is steadily growing more complex—the secessionist Republic of Croatia continues to infiltrate units of its Armed Forces into Bosnia-Hercegovina in an effort to spread the conflict, Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) sources said today.

Croatian infantry units are attacking Serb-populated villages in Posavina (northern Bosnia-Hercegovina) with support from artillery and mortar units based just across the border in neighbouring Croatia, the sources said.

Besides the existing crisis focuses in Posavina, in the area around Bosanski Samac, which also lies alongside Bosnia-Hercegovina's border with Croatia, and the valley of the River Neretva in Hercegovina, the Croatian armed formations are trying to start new clashes in the area around Bihac, Western Bosnia- Hercegovina, and Travnik, in the central part of the republic.

Military sources also said that on the basis of the latest activities of the "green berets" and the rest of the party Army of the Party of Democratic Action (SDA), which rallies Bosnia-Hercegovina's Muslims, new clashes can be expected in the valley of the River Drina, on the border with Serbia. The target of the attacks could be JNA facilities and the area's Serb population, the army sources aid.

JNA units are not engaged in any offensive activities anywhere in Bosnia-Hercegovina, but are only defending military facilities and garrisons under attack by the republican territorial defence, which is made up of Muslims and Croats, as well as the Muslims' and Croats' paramilitaries, the army sources said.

Karadzic Calls for Partition

PM2404133692 Paris LE FIGARO in French 23 Apr 92 p 4

[Interview with President of the Serbian Democratic Party Radovan Karadzic by Xavier Gautier in Sarajevo; date not given]

[Text] [Gautier] According to you, all nationalities have now accepted the idea of the partition of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Why is the war continuing?

[Karadzic] On 18 March, an agreement was reached between Serbs, Muslims, and Croatians in Sarajevo. The EEC gave it its approval. The terms of this agreement are clear: Three separate Bosnia-Hercegovinas will be established. They will be based on ethnic principles.

[Gautier] According to this plan, will the Muslims will be confined to 40 percent of Bosnia-Hercegovina's existing territory?

[Karadzic] The notion of territory is entirely relative.

[Gautier] The EEC is demanding that no territory be acquired by force. Do you agree?

[Karadzic] That is a proposal I made. The new map of Bosnia-Hercegovina will be based on ethnic borders that are perfectly clear. At present, people are killing and being killed for nothing, because, at the end of the day, all the territories occupied by force will have to be handed back to their inhabitants.

[Gautier] The Arkan Serbian militia are still seizing control of large sections of Bosnian territory. How do you justify that?

[Karadzic] Those militias are paramilitary groups. They arrived in Bosnia to respond to the infiltration by units of the regular Croatian army in Hercegovina. The Croatian aggression is being pursued against our territory. This war is pointless. It must end. But we must first expel the Croatian troops.

[Gautier] Will Serbian Bosnia demand its attachment to Serbia?

[Karadzic] No, we have no intention of reuniting any part of Bosnia to Serbia. What we are seeking is the realization of the right of peoples to decide their own fate.

[Gautier] What will be the fate of Muslims or Croatians living in the Serbian areas?

[Karadzic] In fact, there are very few such people. What we mainly find are Serbian hostages, notably in the Muslim districts of Sarajevo. We must not repeat the mistakes of 1941 when the Muslims terrorized the Serbs so much that they had to flee, abandoning all their possessions. We have just signed an agreement with the UN High Commission for Refugess to ensure that everybody can return home.

[Gautier] Do you agree to disband your paramilitary forces?

[Karadzic] The Serbian people of Bosnia have no armed force. We have always asked the Serbs not to mobilize, unlike the Muslims.

[Gautier] Do you deny the Army's support for the Serbs?

[Karadzic] No, but we are relying on the Yugoslav Army because it intends to protect us.

[Gautier] What are your plans for Sarajevo?

[Karadzic] In Sarajevo, the terrible chaos now reigning was created by the general mobilization decreed by Mr. Izetbegovic. At the same time, he is still refusing to

decide which districts of the city belong to the Muslims and which to the Serbs. Sooner or later, a clear separation will have to be established.

[Gautier] Would Sarajevo be divided into several parts like Beirut?

[Karadzic] I am not talking about division but about an administrative reorganization. We currently control some parts of the city and the Muslims others. The Croatian community has announced the establishment of its own municipality. We welcome that decision. We will help them to maintain order. This model could be extended to the whole of Sarajevo. If this is not accepted, we will have horror and terrorism.

[Gautier] President Izetbegovic opposes any partition of Bosnia-Hercegovina. What do you intend to do?

[Karadzic] We will not bombard everybody. But if the peace terms are not accepted, the chaos will continue. And that means war.

Yugoslav Army Seen in 'Disintegration'

92BA0797A Sarajevo NEDJELJA in Serbo-Croatian 5 Apr 92 p 7

[Article by Mensur Camo: "The Strategy of the Magpie"]

[Text] Units of the JNA [Yugoslav People's Army] stationed on the territory of B-H [Bosnia-Hercegovina] after their flight from Slovenia and Croatia are irresistibly reminiscent of a shipwreck victim whom a storm has cast upon a desert island: He does not know whether the new environment will be friendly toward him; indeed, he is not certain—and the unidentified cries of birds, monkeys, and who knows what other creatures instill only the uncertainty of the unknown—even if he will be able to preserve his bare biological life here. And, of course, the tide, as in every good disaster film, has floated up from the sunken ship only objects which are not of much use here, not at least in the cruel existential struggle for survival. Such as chests of drawers, the mast, and pots containing exotic flowers. Neither the shipwreck victim, nor the JNA in B-H, has the most ordinary glass bottle in which he might put a rescue note....

Although they hide it as a snake does his legs, the numerical strength of the JNA which is receiving room and board in B-H, can be sketched with more or less accuracy. We are dealing with about 100,000 men wearing the olive-drab uniforms, geographically deployed under jurisdiction of the 2d and 4th Military Districts, and operationally in approximately five corps. But, as has been asserted by one of the best strategic analysts in Yugoslavia, Teodor Gersak (previously a colonel in military counterintelligence), the numbers signify hardly anything all by themselves. The state of disintegration that has been eating away the JNA ever since it undertook the unfortunate Slovenian war has profoundly affected its segment in B-H: Disorganization, ideological disorientation, poor discipline, low morale, insufficient training (not only of men, but also of a large portion of the officers)—these are all reasons why only certain highly specialized units are still functioning without major problems (air force, heavy and rocket artillery, military police), or, in the assessment of Teodor Gersak, only a few brigades which are able to maintain their real optimum strength. It seems that no one has the intention of giving the JNA in B-H the 10 months or so it needs after a rest and replenishment to achieve the maximum level of organization up to the corps level: neither the B-H civilian authorities, nor the central headquarters in Belgrade. If there have been any doubts about it up to now, Major General Dr. Vuk Obradovic, chief of the Administration for Moral Training of the SSNO [Federal Secretariat for National Defense], took care to dispel them last week in an exclusive interview (!?) he gave to POLITIKA in Belgrade.

Remain in the Homeland

In answer to a question which in its arrogant directness certainly would be painful to any member of the JNA in B-H (What will happen to the units of the JNA in B-H?), General Obradovic gave an answer which, to be sure, was somewhat veiled, but nonetheless painful for that: "That will depend primarily on the agreement concerning the political arrangement of B-H. The army will respect every decision arrived at by consent of all three nationalities there. At the same time, it must be borne in mind that units of the JNA in B-H are mostly manned with people from that region. No one can or should force them to leave their native place."

So, the message to the tens of thousands of people who have experienced hellish months in Slovenia and Croatia, accompanied by the uninterrupted ideological-patriotic drill of the pro-Milosevic structure in the General Staff, reads: "Thank you for everything you have done so far; we no longer need you, and from now on look out for yourselves!" The final termination of all relations between Belgrade and Sarajevo (along military lines), and it will come very quickly, will occur on the date when Serbia introduces its own currency: The printing plant issuing army paper, which is still called money only because of the inertia of the ubiquitous cynicism, will be shut down, and then thousands of people will be left without money in their pocket, without jobs and numerous privileges, and, worst of all, without support of the largest segment of the civilian authority and population in B-H. If the generals have been both corrupted and blinded in the thick fog of ideological nationalism, how is it possible that thousands of junior officers do not see that the person they have been obeying and following so blindly is tightening the noose around their neck? At the moment, this is objectively the greatest political mystery (who knows, at some point it may even be found to be the greatest psychological mystery) in B-H. Political shouts and ethnic agitation will do little to feed the officers' hungry children and satisfy the vanity of the colonel who tomorrow will have to regularly apply for a job as chief of security in a factory which until yesterday he looked at over the muzzle of a cannon.

The Jerry Rollins of the Yugoarmy

A subvariant of this dark future, which presupposes support of the Bosnian SDS [Serbian Democratic Party], is shaky for

101 reasons, except that perhaps the most unintelligent sergeant major in the Quartermaster Corps presumably agrees with it. Karadzic quite certainly will always do what Milosevic tells him to do, and Sloba has begun, has he not, in recent months to settle accounts with the "Red officers," which is in fact why he chose the youngish Vuk Obradovic to be the future head of his army.

The inauguration of Gen. Obradovic as the actual chief of all colonel generals and lieutenant colonel generals (including Adzic, and, of course, Kukanjac) of the JNA, also has its bizarre component: It is reminiscent of First Sergeant Jerry Rollins from Ghana, who after the military took power in this state presumably had to be promoted, so he was given the rank of lieutenant. It is less shameful for a lieutenant to command generals than a sergeant, so it is perhaps with the same reasoning that Colonel Vuk Obradovic was last December promoted to the rank of major general—there was talk, we recall, about his clumsy performance as spokesman of the SSNO. Much more essential than this bizarre aspect, however, is the fact that that act represents the victory of Milosevic's conception of transformation of the JNA. A part of that conception, the most important part, is the question of army armament and equipment, which according to some estimates were worth between $150 and $200 billion before the six-day war in Slovenia.

Obradovic's interview with POLITIKA also contains this sentence: "And establishment of a modern and efficient military organization will also bring about the conditions for the portion of the great military wealth which happens to be on Serbian-Montenegrin land to be used to encourage the economic development of this joint state." This sentence of the general's can be confirmed—at least partially—by inhabitants of B-H who live in the "Muslim" or "Croatian" parts of this republic and who for days have been watching the endless military transports "protecting" artillery, missiles, radar, repair plants, and other exceedingly expensive parts of military property in the direction of Serbia or the assumed Serbian cantons. There are estimates that at this point there are more rounds of ammunition than leaves on the plateau of Romanija. It happened, as Gen. Obradovic would say. Leave to one side the fact that this evacuation will make B-H poorer by hundreds and thousands of millions of dollars—the B-H civilian authorities, it seems, neither can nor intend to prevent this grand larceny of army property by order of Belgrade. Also leave to one side the inertness of the commands stationed here, which also are not coming awake from several decades of sleep, and they cannot see that in a period of a month they will be left at the level of equipment of an average infantry formation—and armed and equipped in that way they will hardly be needed even by B-H itself. The biggest question is what Serbia is going to do with so much armament (in B-H alone before these convoys began, armament and equipment were stored sufficient for nine corps)?

Radars in the Wasteland

Those who hope (or fear, it makes absolutely no difference) that Serbia needs all this in order to become a regional military power are losing sight of the fact that for more than two years now the strong foundations of the new world order have been under construction, and in it there is less and less work for the armed forces. Even if it does become a regional policeman, Serbia will have few occasions to use its military potential. Even the assumption that all this property of the JNA will be an economic flywheel for "Zabljak Yugoslavia," which is what the young general hopes for, does not hold much water. It includes, to be sure, quite a bit of valuable equipment which could also be put to civilian use, but most of the army dowry to the new Yugoslavia nevertheless consists of weapons. And they are completely compatible with the disintegrating Soviet model, which has been collaborating in an unprecedented way on "firepower" flea markets all over the world (in the United States, airplane fanatics are buying Soviet MiG's for their own personal reckless acts for only $100,000 or so). Thus, whereas the total property of the JNA last year was worth $200 billion, its "book" value at the moment is one-tenth of that, and its market value virtually nothing.

By all appearances, we are nevertheless talking about a "magpie strategy": Pull everything back into Serbia and the presumed Serbian cantons in B-H, the necessary and the unnecessary, just so that nothing valuable is left to the states which in past years have been demonized as "Ustasha" in a strong propaganda campaign. Expensive missile systems, radars, computers, special tools, strategic raw materials, and so on, are being withdrawn from B-H, just as they were withdrawn the other day from Slovenia and Croatia, to be "stored" in empty factory sheds, improper warehouses, or simply on open waste ground. "Better for it to go to ruin than to be left to them!"

Now, let us go back to our shipwreck victim. What will B-H do with those 100,000 members of the JNA who thus have "innocently" ended up high and dry on an island which they were told was rich and hospitable, but in reality is stony and lifeless? After Obradovic's interview in POLITIKA, the "army question" in B-H no longer exists. It has grown into a social welfare problem. Although this is not clear to the incompetent little B-H states, the people in olive-drab uniforms ought to bear that in mind. Especially in those neurotic and fiery days which the Bosnians and Hercegovinians will remember for a long, long time yet.

Pinheiro, Carrington, Tudjman Discuss Peace Plan

LD2404130492 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] At the end of their two-day visit to the territory of former Yugoslavia, Joao de Deus Pinheiro, EC chairman and Portugese foreign minister, and Lord Carrington, chairman of the European Conference on Yugoslavia, today paid a brief visit to Zagreb. Following talks with Croatian President Tudjman, they stated they were satisfied that Tudjman and the Republic of Croatia fully supported their Bosnia-Hercegovina peace plan. They announced that the conference on the future constitutional system in Bosnia-Hercegovina, presided over by Portugese Ambassador Cutileiro, would continue next week, and added it was the only way to maintain a cease-fire in Bosnia-Hercegovina. After talks with Pinheiro and Carrington, President Tudjman said Croatia will do everything to resolve the crisis and put an end to hostilities in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the war in Croatia, which would facilitate final deployment of UNPROFOR.

UNPROFOR Positions Said Shelled

LD2404121892 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1029 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Sid, April 24 (TANJUG)—The Croatian Army opened artillery fire on the United Nations Peace-Keeping Troops (UNPROFOR) in Yugoslavia during last night's attack along the frontline in the Serb region of Eastern Slavonija, within the administrative borders of breakaway Croatia, as TANJUG learns from military sources. The Army intervened via the telephone "hotline" but in vain. The Croatian side said it was doing nothing because they received strict orders from Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, military sources say.

The sources add that units of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) were forced to return fire, after which the provocations stopped. Fire was occasionally opened, with sporadic infantry shots fired, until 10:30 p.m. (2030 GMT) last night. The JNA, territorial defence and civilians did not sustain any casualties, but the damage is extensive.

Military sources add that Croatia was pulling out some units and sending them to the fronts in Bosnia-Hercegovina from the front around the Rivers Danube, Sava and Vuka, which are to be controlled by UNPROFOR. Neighbouring breakaway Croatia is directly interfering in the inter-ethnic clashes between the three constituent nations in Bosnia-Hercegovina—Moslems, Serbs and Croats.

2 Aircraft Said Downed Over Neretva Valley

LD2304203292 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Report over video by Josko Martinovic]

[Excerpt] A squadron of four aircraft that attacked the Neretva valley was halved in number. Two enemy aircraft were downed. One was downed by the Metkovic air defense and the other by colleagues from Capljina. The Serbian pilots were saved by the invention of a Croat, Faust Vrancic—a parachute. One parachute landed around Mostarsko Krusevo and the other one between Stolac and Neum. [passage omitted]

[Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian at 1730 GMT, in the same newscast, later reports that "three, and not two, aircraft were downed. One pilot was caught."]

Another Downed Over Neum

LD2404140492 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] At 0800 GMT the Neum air defense shot down an enemy aircraft that crashed on the temporarily occupied area of Dubrovnik hinterland. We learned this from the municipal headquarters of the Croatian council of Neum defense. The same source said an air alert has been in force in Neum today because of continuous overflights by enemy aircraft.

Commentary Views U.S. Regional Policy

AU2304154392 Zagreb DANAS in Serbo-Croatian 14 Apr 92 p 35

[Peter Kuzmic commentary: "Gratitude Without Enthusiasm"]

[Text] What is the most important thing about the very important American package—recognition of three Yugoslav republics as "sovereign and independent states," and particularly the tragically late, although expected, and indeed several times announced recognition of Croatia?

For our currently, and hopefully temporarily, partly occupied state the most important thing is the clarity and resolve of the second sentence of the statement regarding the recognition, which was signed by President Bush on 7 April. "The United States accepts the republican borders as they were before the beginning of the crisis as the legitimate international borders of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Croatia, and Slovenia." Everything else that Bush's statement announces, and that directly concerns Croatia—the establishment of diplomatic relations, lifting of economic sanctions, supporting the UN peacekeeping forces, and the EC peace conference—are an implicit consequence of the very act of recognition itself.

The explicit acceptance of the pre-crisis borders can be interpreted as an insistence that they cannot be changed. The surprising thing is that the formulation is without the usual addition that would allow the possibility of eventual changes conditioned by peaceful negotiations of the conflicting sides. The only superpower of the postcommunist world, which had until recently supported the unity of Yugoslavia, and through its distancing had humiliated the attacked Croatia, while endorsing the hopes of the aggressor, Serbia, and the pro-Serbian communist Yugo-generals, has with this sentence put a stop to all imperial dreams of a Greater Serbia, and has, from the highest place, administered an unpleasant slap in the face to the "Balkan Stalin" (or "Saddam" for that matter) Milosevic, and his now clearly unfeasible ambition to have all Serbs live in one state.

Needless to say, this recognition significantly improves Croatia's standing in the world, and will be followed by an avalanche of recognition by many countries of the world to whom America serves as a reliable landmark in making their own decisions. Also, this recognition means that we have made a huge leap toward the East River, and that, slowly but surely, the doors to other important political and financial international institutions are opening for us.

There still remains a bitter feeling about the Americans having waited so long, unrealistically insisting on a peaceful and complete solution to the Yugo-crisis, and the feeling that, inconsistent with their own orientations, they were equally guilty for many victims through their apparently hypocritical and indifferent policies. But we have criticized them enough, asking them to repent and change their course, so now that they have finally taken pity on us we should follow the example of the great cosmopolitan, the apostle Paul, and "forget what is behind us, and look ahead." In the same spirit, President Bush ends his statement with an appeal to all (former) Yugoslav republics to take "the historic chance to stop the tragic violence...The persistent attachment to peaceful dialogue must lead to reconciliation, association with Europe, and cordial and productive relations with the United States," preaches the American President, and (like a latter-day Jesus, commanding that the word be spread throughout the world) he promises that America will stand by us only if we obey: "America will continue working for the achievement of these aims."

Those aims are still far away, and the road to them is painstaking, so it is naively early to celebrate American recognition, as if it were an aim in itself, and not only a means of achieving the aims that Croatia has set itself. The truth is that the Americans have recognized us unwillingly and without enthusiasm, and, therefore, there is no cause for any particular joy or enthusiasm on the sober and sensible, rather than sensitive, Croatian political and public scene. Gratitude yes, euphoria no. And while President Bush set conditions to the recognized states, and expressed his wish for "cordial and productive relations with the United States," some Croats, who were spitting at America until recently, are now embracing it enthusiastically. This naive behavior on the principles of "blowing hot and cold" will most certainly not impress the Americans. On the contrary!

Thus it comes as a surprise, this pioneer and partisan-like, adolescently naive, and widely publicized statement by the official representative of Croatia in Washington: "Now we can go ahead with the reconstruction of our war-ravaged homeland, with the certainty that the people and government of America are with us." (Hallelujah! If only they were.)

Where did we get that certainty, unless it is the expression of "certainty" by those who remain deeply uncertain. With the recognition of the three republics, and we should say that it was mainly done for the sake of Bosnia-Hercegovina, which has been placed first in all the recognition papers, America did not say that it supported Croatia; it merely said that it supported Europe, and that it "strongly supported the UN peace plan, headed by Cyrus Vance."

The direct mention of Cyrus Vance, and America's repeated emphasis on his merits, point to some other doubts and dilemmas that we have no time to consider here. The question remains whether that "persistent and deeply moral man," the peacemaker and potential Nobel Prize winner whom the Americans proudly regard a miracle-worker for outwitting the sly and stubborn Balkan folk, Milosevic and Tudjman, works as a UN envoy. Or is he rather (and why not at the same time) carrying out a mission for the state and government in whose service he has been employed for decades; as secretary of state in Carter's time and, therefore, a predecessor of Baker's. At the news conference on the recognition of the three republics, the mouthpieces of the White House (Judy Smith) and the State Department (Margaret Tutwiler) were asked awkward questions on why the United States had not recognized Croatia and Slovenia earlier. They claimed that had been the only reasonable solution, because they had been advised by Cyrus Vance. Margaret Tutweiler, the mouthpiece for Bush's foreign policy, summarized the American attitude: "We took very seriously everything we were told by the former secretary of state."

However, is that not the imposition of "pax Americana" on the world, in which the United States is using the United Nations as its globally extended hand with which they intend to rule? Taken in this light, the "new world order" does not sound particularly new!

Tudjman Envisions No Border Changes

92BA0737C Zagreb VECERNJI LIST in Serbo-Croatian 28 Mar 92 p 8

[Report of interview with President of Croatia Franjo Tudjman by political weekly HERCEG-BOSNA; place and date not given: "No Changes in Borders"]

[Text] As far as Croatia is concerned, pointed out Dr. Tudjman, any change in borders is entirely out of the question, because what the Serbs have demanded, what they have wanted to conquer, has never belonged to Serbia, and it never will.

In a far-ranging interview published in the political weekly HERCEG-BOSNA, Dr. Tudjman gave the following answer to the question among others of specifically what the UN peacekeeping force is doing for the Croatian population on a short-term and long-term basis, in view of the varying interpretations by the public:

"Of course, at first glance the people have reasons for asking if this is not possibly a trap that will harm Croatian sovereignty. There springs to mind above all the example of Cyprus, where the peacekeeping forces brought about division of Cyprus. Our case, however, is entirely different. The peacekeeping forces in Croatia have been committed on the basis of a decision by the European Community and the Security Council, that is, essential international factors, for which reason we agreed to their coming. The main thing is that there can be no changes in the borders by force, that is, the borders may be changed only when all the sides come to agreement about change."

Dr. Tudjman then stated that "Insofar as Croatia is concerned, any change in borders is entirely out of the question, because what the Serbs have demanded, what they have wanted to conquer, has never belonged to Serbia, and it never will." President Tudjman repeated that the Serbs will be assured of their ethnic and civil rights, and that "this is what the international community demands of us."

He added that all questions within the borders must be settled on the basis of international conventions on the civil and ethnic rights of minorities, explaining that this situation results both from the conditions in Yugoslavia and from those in the world at large, especially on the Euroasian continent of the former Soviet Union, because "if the world were to allow changes in borders, the general chaos of war would ensue."

Peacekeeping Forces Mark the End of War

"Consequently," continued Dr. Tudjman, "the commitment of peacekeeping forces in Croatia can do nothing but keep the occupying troops of the Yugoslav army away from the territories of Croatia, disarm the Chetnik and other territorial detachments, and restore normal living conditions."

"From this viewpoint the commitment of peacekeeping forces to Croatia signifies an end to the war and progress toward establishment of constitutional order in the territory of Croatia," concluded President Tudjman. Responding to one of a number of questions relating to the current situation in Bosnia and Hercegovina, that of which internal organization of Bosnia-Hercegovina would be the happiest solution for all three peoples, and for Croats in particular, Dr. Tudjman asserted that "we have always supported, and we repeat that we advocate, independence and sovereignty for Bosnia-Hercegovina."

"But we have also said," he continued, "that, if Bosnia-Hercegovina becomes the issue, if the Serbian parts secede, or if someone wants to return Bosnia-Hercegovina to Serboslavia after Yugoslavia disintegrates, the Croatian people cannot agree to this, because over the entire period of existence of Yugoslavia, both monarchist and socialist, the Croatian element was subjected to constant pressure and attempts to weaken them."

Croatian Citizenship for Croats From Bosnia-Hercegovina

It was stressed among other things in the interview that "we advocate the establishment in Bosnia-Hercegovina of interethnic relationships on the basis of full equality of rights and sovereignty of all three constituent ethnic groups in Bosnia-Hercegovina." Answering the question of whether the idea of dual citizenship for Croatians in Bosnia-Hercegovina will be enshrined in law, Dr. Tudjman stated that he deems this to be a solution for preservation of Bosnia-Hercegovina as an independent country, "and on the other hand this would represent an occasion for linking the Croatian ethnic entity to its motherland."

"This would not be the only such instance in the world," Dr. Tudjman continued, adding that Croatians in Bosnia-Hercegovina should be made to feel that they are part of the collective Croatian entity, and on the other hand that life in a Bosnia-Hercegovina which will assure them of equality of rights and sovereignty on their own ground.

"In this respect too I think that the Croatians in Bosnia-Hercegovina should understand that they cannot accept any unitaristic solution from Sarajevo, as at one time they were advised to do by Belgrade for all of Yugoslavia. This fact points to the lesson that people must not be deceived into thinking that halfway decisions may become permanent; on the contrary, they must realize that such decisions may be the cause of new difficulties, and accordingly on the soil of Bosnia-Hercegovina as well they must form a judgment about the total experience that they have undergone," according to Dr. Tudjman.

Asked to evaluate the most recent Brussels document relating to Yugoslavia, and the conference on Bosnia-Hercegovina, Dr. Tudjman pointed out that the international conference in The Hague, and now in Brussels, is irreplaceable, for the reason that the war must be ended as soon as possible and that Yugoslavia must be delineated as soon as possible in the formal sense in international life. He stressed among other things that there is already talk of succession, the right of inheritance, and the results of division.

Election of R. Brkic a Good Solution

In speaking of the conference on Bosnia-Hercegovina, he stated that this problem is more complicated than it appears, offering the assessment that the current negotiations in progress among the three peoples, with European representatives in the lead, have yielded certain results, "but they are still not satisfactory. Well, now, I think that because of these general conditions that have come about as a result of the disintegration of Yugoslavia and the collapse of the Yugoslav communist army and Serbian imperialism in Croatia, all the factors in Bosnia-Hercegovina will be disposed toward agreement, toward a solution that at least temporarily will mean elimination of the perils of war, which are more ruinous in Bosnia-Hercegovina than in Croatia."

In view of the fact that the HDZ [Croatian Democratic Community] of Bosnia-Hercegovina has a new president for the third time now, and that the party was conceived as part of an all-Croatian movement like the HDZ, President Tudjman was asked to state the priority missions of the HDZ of Bosnia-Hercegovina. In reference to party politics, Dr. Tudjman said that some people wanted to redimension the party leadership problem, noting that Stjepan Kljuic played a positive part during the election period in promoting the HDZ and the Croatian national essence in Bosnia-Hercegovina. "However," he added, "during the later and more delicate period, when it was necessary on the one hand to manage Bosnian-Hercegovinan policy, of course, and also to manage the policy of the Croats in Bosnia-Hercegovina, in accordance with what has taken place in Croatia and the international situation, it may be said that Mr. Kljuic has far from demonstrated the necessary skill, and that, as many others have said, part of Croatian policy was lost over that period and subordinated to others."

"All this took place at a meeting of the HDZ leadership in Siroki Brijeg, at which Mr. Kljuic handed in his resignation. The entire situation suggested the need for finding a solution in the leadership that is in keeping with current requirements and needs," stated Dr. Tudjman, offering the assessment that "this change has been accomplished painlessly and that those who negotiated in place of Kljuic both within Bosnia-Hercegovina and with the European Community accomplished their task in a highly satisfactory manner. Dr. Tudjman added that, as regards the current change, it is somewhat hard to understand why Mr. Kljuic failed to come to the meeting, why he tried to convene a special meeting, and why he later tried to return to lead the party after retiring, even though discussions and the situation make it clear that it was not in the interest of the HDZ as a whole to split up. After all, Kljuic is a member of the country's presidency. This is a responsible position; moreover, it would be normal for the HDZ as a party to be headed by someone else." Dr. Tudjman added that "the election of Dr. Miljenko Brkic represents a highly successful solution that should satisfy all well-disposed persons. I think Dr. Brkic can be a cohesive force reconciling different viewpoints in the interest of the Croatian national existence in Bosnia-Hercegovina and as a whole."

Diplomatic Relations Established With France

LD2304205792 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1834 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Summary] Ljubljana, 23 Apr (TANJUG)—France and Slovenia today established diplomatic relations. Slovene Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel and French Ambassador Jacques Blot examined the possibilities of future bilateral relations, and the French side confirmed that it would support Slovenia's request for UN membership and the expansion of cooperation with the EC.

Sudan also recognized Slovenia today, and talks were held in Ljubljana on economic cooperation between the two countries, reports the Slovene Foreign Ministry.

Slovene-Croatian Border Agreement Drafted

92BA0787B Ljubjana DELO in Slovene 10 Apr 92 p 1

[Article by Peter Potocnik: "The Draft Border Agreement Is Acceptable to Both States"—first paragraph is DELO introduction]

[Text] The differences in views regarding the border between Croatia and Slovenia have been discussed by a joint commission of experts.

From our correspondent, Zagreb, 9 Apr—The Slovene and Croatian government delegations for settling the border issues emphasized at today's meeting in Zagreb as well that neither side has any territorial claims against the other. The head of the Croatian delegation, Minister of Maritime Affairs Davorin Rudolf, and the head of the Slovene delegation, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, spoke about numerous issues, including the difficulties caused by the fishing dispute.

In this regard, Minister Rupel cited the experiences of several maritime EC members, which have been settling critical fishing industry issues for several years. Slovene and Croatian fishermen have also been fishing together for centuries, and consequently, in his opinion, we are going somewhat too fast with the fishing agreement. "There is no doubt that good-neighborly relations can be seriously spoiled by ultimatums like the one about banning Slovene fishing in Croatian waters," Dr. Dimitrij Rupel emphasized. Dr. Davorin Rudolf also agreed with this, but asserted at the same time that there had not been any Croatian ultimatum to Slovenia.

The delegations thought that the draft border agreement was a good one, but their views on the border differ somewhat in six or seven cases, to which Dr. Dimitrij Rupel added the Piran Bay at the meeting in Zagreb. An expert group was therefore appointed at the meeting; on the Slovene side, it is composed of Boso Demsar, director of the Republic Geodetic Administration, Branko Celar, a director in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Prof. Mirjam Skrk of the Ljubljana Law School, and on the Croatian side, it is headed by Prof. Vladimir Ibler. The commission was also offered the Slovene and Croatian lists of border crossings; according to the former, there are 26 crossings, and according to the latter, 31. Since both states agree that the border between Slovenia and Croatia should be regulated according to modern European standards, the Croatians are trying to have joint custom-houses built on the border. In the opinion of the Slovene delegation, this would come into consideration only if new modern highway links between Slovenia and Croatia were to be resolved. Slovenia has already proposed at previous meetings that customs formalities be simplified at the eight railroad border crossings.

[Box, p 1]

Croatian Minister of Tourism Marcelo Popovic said that Slovene tourists in Croatia would be treated just like Croatian guests. In addition, he rejected the rumors and insinuations about some sort of threat to Slovene property in Croatia.

Slovenia To Become IMF Member in September

92BA0742A Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 24 Mar 92 p 4

[Article by Miha Jenko: "Slovenia Will Be a Member of the IMF as Early as September"—first paragraph is DELO introduction]

[Text] It already has the support of more than half the members of the International Monetary Fund; after joining the IMF, the door to the IFC [International Finance Corporation] and the World Bank will also be open.

Ljubljana, 23 Mar—Slovenia has more than 50-percent support from the members of the IMF, and in view of their quotas in the Fund, the procedure for Slovenia's joining the IMF could start immediately. It is expected to end with Slovenia's admission at the IMF conference in September. When the state joins the IMF, it can immediately become a member of the IFC and the World Bank as well, Finance Minister Dusan Sesok predicted at today's press conference after returning from a visit to the United States.

As he stated, he met in the United States with representatives of the IMF, the World Bank, the IFC, the Exim Bank, the OPIC insurance company, and representatives of the Treasury Department and the State Department. At the IMF, he said that Slovenia is to pay 25 percent of its quota in the Fund in hard currency, and the rest in its national currency. It was agreed at the World Bank that Slovenia would "ask it for loans under the name of Yugoslavia, but that the arrangements would be made directly through Washington." He also said that Slovenia, in view of its good relations with the IFC to date, would not have to pay expenses for carrying out privatization, in the amount of $50,000. Regarding U.S. recognition, he said that it should occur in the first half of April. Sesok favorably assessed the results of his talks at the Exim Bank, which is intended for financing U.S.

exports. According to Sesok, this has to do with the sale of products from the Westinghouse company (radar for Slovenia's needs, and nuclear fuel for the Krsko nuclear plant). It was agreed at the OPIC insurance institution that it would participate in insuring investments.

Sesok also emphasized that the U.S. recognition would open the way to all the financial institutions, but that if it did not occur, in the meantime it would still be possible to cooperate with the IMF and OPIC.

As Minister Sesok stated especially for DELO, the United States has the largest share, 17 percent, of votes in the IMF, but it does not have the right to veto the admission of new states. He said that the IMF warned them that the United States did not play a decisive role in recognition. They were assured of this by the IMF's director for East Europe and the executive director of the IMF who heads the group (the so-called constituency), which now also includes Yugoslavia. According to Sesok, they informed the IMF of their desire to remain in this group, which also includes Cyprus, Israel, Romania, and the Netherlands, and in the future is also to include Ukraine and the republics of the former Yugoslavia that would desire it. According to the minister, their presence does not represent any obstacle to Slovenia in a financial sense, because the Netherlands are extremely favorably inclined toward us. Slovenia would thus become a member of the IMF in September, and the whole technical part in connection with this should be done in the next two months. In response to a question about whether they had also relied upon Slovene experts abroad in connection with Slovenia's inclusion in the world financial organizations, Sesok answered that they had been in Washington together with Marko Voljc and Boris Skapin, and that the latter had especially been of great assistance to them. Other Slovene experts also participated in the visit to the U.S. capital (Gregor Dolenc, and on the first day, Boris Pleskovic as well). During the visit, in New York they also contacted a company in New York that calculates the state ratings desired in obtaining foreign loans. They told representatives of the Manufacturers Hanover bank (which has been bought by Chemical Bank in any case), which is coordinating the consortium of creditor banks, that Slovenia would only pay the loans located in the Republic of Slovenia, but not the others, because it did not have access to the Yugoslav foreign exchange reserves. "This position was not incomprehensible to them, but they were not enthusiastic," Dusan Sesok said.

Government Restructuring, Ministers' Resignations

92BA0787A Ljubljana DELO in Slovene
10 Apr 92 p 1

[Article by Veso Stojanov and Vinko Vasle: "Some Have Offered Their Resignations, and Others Are Announcing Them"—first paragraph is DELO introduction]

[Text] Lojze Peterle has taken note of the resignations offered by Ministers Voljc and Tancig; the Liberal Party is proposing the dismissal of Dr. Bucar, who is thinking about resignation.

Ljubljana, 9 Apr—The announcements by several leaders of the parties in the so-called 4 + 1 small center coalition that in the event of the failure of a constructive vote of no confidence in Lojze Peterle's government they would think about withdrawing their ministers from the present government were partly fulfilled today. Specifically, at today's government meeting, Dr. Peter Tancig, the minister of science and technology, and Dr. Bozidar Voljc, the minister of health, offered Lojze Peterle their resignations.

As the ministers, who are members of the Greens of Slovenia, stated at today's government meeting, they decided on this step for moral reasons, since yesterday in parliament their party voted for a vote of no confidence in Peterle's government, and supported Igor Bavcar's candidacy for prime minister. Lojze Peterle took note of their resignations, and will decide whether he will accept them after the end of both of the subsequent no confidence votes. At a press conference after the government meeting, the prime minister said that he also expected a similar step from other ministers who were members of the parties in the 4 + 1 coalition. In addition to this, he also said that "he would be glad if it could be agreed upon in talks with the leaders of the former coalition partners that these two ministers would continue the work that they have done to date. Lojze Peterle said at the press conference that some people at today's government meeting proposed that all the ministers offer their resignations, and thus give him a free hand in restructuring the government. The restructuring of the government is necessary, and it will obviously have to be carried out based on the present law, which defines the government and its structure. Consequently, in the next few days Lojze Peterle will meet with the heads of several parties, so that the government can maintain the continuity of its activity on certain issues after the restructuring as well.

At the suggestion of Minister of Agriculture Joze Osterc, the members of the government decided today that the ministers would sign an appeal or petition in which they would call upon the presidents of the parties, the deputies, and the parliament's leadership to settle the issue of the constructive vote of no confidence in some way, so that there would not be one vote every week, because then the government cannot operate normally. In their opinion, more time should pass between two no-confidence votes. As we have learned, Vice Prime Minister Leo Seserko, who is likewise from the Greens party, said at today's government meeting that he would consult with the party's leadership some more, and then offer his resignation. Let us also note that today's government meeting was not attended by the three ministers from the Democratic Party, who did not justify their absence, according to Lojze Peterle, nor did they offer

their resignations, which "obviously does not cast the best light on their understanding of the democratic rules of the game."

Today, Dr. France Bucar, the president of the Slovene Assembly, also announced his possible resignation. The Liberal Party has in fact already launched an initiative for Dr. France Bucar's dismissal "because of his arbitrary, undemocratic, and dictatorial methods, to which Deputy Vitomir Gros was subjected," as they stated at today's press conference. The Liberals think that Dr. Bucar's mandate is also questionable, since as a deputy he has moved to another party, and furthermore he is not a democrat, and in guiding the Assembly's work has been biased in favor of his own party. They called upon Dr. Bucar to make a "dignified resignation." France Bucar said at his own press conference, however, that he was also thinking himself about resigning, since complications have been occurring in parliament for a considerable time now, which will soon, in his opinion, completely cripple the work of the Assembly. He will conduct more extensive consultations on his resignation in the next few days, since it is a decision that he cannot "make on his own."

[Box, p 1]

"These are things that require deliberation, and I will coordinate my actions with the decisions of my party and the 4 + 1 coalition," Foreign Minister Dmitrij Rupel answered a question about his possible resignation. He emphasized that his resignation was still feasible, but that the issue of his resignation was not a personal problem. Not only does the present government not have a majority in parliament, but it is also composed of members of parties which oppose the government. We are in a very tense and complicated situation, from which there is only one way out—new elections, he stated.

Pucnik on New Social Democratic Party Platform

92BA0778D Ljubljana DELO in Slovene
6 Apr 92 p 2

[Interview with Social Democratic Party President Joze Pucnik by Veso Stojanov; place and date not given: "We Are Not Moving to the Left, We Just Have Other Goals"]

[Text] Maribor, 5 Apr—The changes in the policy of the Social Democratic Party that were announced at the Maribor congress by Dr. Pucnik will undoubtedly strengthen the Slovene left-center political bloc. We spoke about this at the congress with the reelected president of the Slovene Social Democratic Party, Dr. Joze Pucnik.

[Stojanov] In your opening speech you emphasized that the government had not done anything to reform the economic system. Now, after two years, do you in the Social Democratic Party also feel responsible for the fact that nothing has changed in that area?

[Pucnik] We Social Democrats are jointly responsible for what the Demos government has done: both for what the government did well, and also for what it did imperfectly. We have to acknowledge this, and in this regard the most important thing is that in these two years we were not able to carry out the reform of the economic system, financial rehabilitation of the banks, and the introduction of a normal credit system. These are the tasks that we in Demos included in our joint program.

[Stojanov] At this congress, you announced a certain shift of the Social Democratic Party to the left.

[Pucnik] We have to be accurate about this. It is not our shifting to the left, but rather a withdrawal of the Slovene public's opinion of our party. Our party was social-democratic and left-center from the very beginning, but it was tied to the coalition because of the tasks that we set for ourselves. There was no left-oriented party in it, and in a way this influence the party's image and its very political activity within this coalition. We have not been in any coalition since December, and we are acting as an independent party that establishes ties with others for joint projects. At this time, as you know, our joint project is the center initiative's new Slovene government. I would like to emphasize once again that we are not shifting to the left; instead, we are setting other priorities. Social and economic issues are coming to the fore, especially the issues of the socially endangered or neglected groups of the population, and thus the impression arises that the party has made a big jump to the left. I would not say that this is the case. This is not in order to conceal what we were. We admit that because of the coalition and the situation in Slovenia, we devoted ourselves more to other issues than these, but there were social elements in our program even earlier. Now we are just placing them in the forefront of our activity. This also does not mean that we are now becoming less patriotic. I think that a people that has its own state and is not currently in danger does not have to constantly beat its chest and emphasize that it is Slovene and wave flags. Let us have a state and be proud of it, and let it become something self-evident to us. It does not have to be emphasized all the time. As you can see, you will not find a word about sovereign Slovenia in the principles of our program. We have it; the state's independence was very important to us earlier, but now it is no longer a current political problem that a party like ours would have to deal with.

[Stojanov] This shift in the Social Democratic Party is probably also a consequence of the approaching elections?

[Pucnik] Yes, of course. We are trying to win people with what we have planned now; previously we tried to interest them in our party with other things to offer, such as independent Slovenia and so forth. Now we will bring a social emphasis to the forefront.

[Stojanov] You are cooperating in the center initiative, which is supposed to form a new government. Do you

think that it will even be possible to achieve a joint proposal from the center, now that two center prime ministers are involved? Yesterday, after the meeting that you center initiative representatives had after the end of the first part of your party's congress, Igor Bavcar said that a great step forward had been taken and that there were more possibilities for success than two days before.

[Pucnik] I have a somewhat smaller figure than Mr. Bavcar, and consequently I would say that a small step has been taken in that direction. We spoke very realistically. Possibilities for an agreement have been indicated. The parties are aware that it is necessary to find a compromise solution. We are condemned to compromise if we want to succeed with this project at all. I am still an optimist. Now there are still possibilities, but I do not feel any enthusiasm about it.

[Stojanov] Which of the two should withdraw his candidacy for prime minister? Drnovsek, or Bavcar?

[Pucnik] As always in politics, it also necessary to resolve this deadlock in such a way that no one will have to withdraw.

Military Basic Training Begins

92BA0778A Ljubljana DNEVNIK in Slovene
1 Apr 92 p 8

[Article by Ivan Krasko: "Day Zero for Young Men"—first paragraph is DNEVNIK introduction]

[Text] Slovene soldiers are arriving at the training centers where they will learn everything necessary in three months; four facilities have been renovated for the soldiers at what was formerly the largest JA [Yugoslav Army] military complex in Slovenia.

Cerklje, 1 Apr—Three months of training are beginning today for young Slovene soldiers at six training centers. Even before the soldiers' arrival, rumors were spreading in some places that the military facilities had become luxurious after their renovation, and that the soldiers would have their own washing machines, numerous bathrooms, and similar things. The Defense Ministry consequently did well when it invited journalists before the beginning of the training, and thus presented to the public the renovated facilities at the training centers and the planned life of the future soldiers.

First of all, it is necessary to note that the training center in Cerklje near the Krka River, formerly the largest JA military complex in Slovenia, has undergone a necessary renovation. This renovation, however, is not any sort of luxury, but rather an absolutely necessary measure that will make it possible for the soldiers to live normally, with human dignity. Four facilities in Cerklje had to be renovated for the soldiers' needs: one for the command, and another for a residence and a commissariat, while the other two contain dormitories and classrooms. The former JA facilities were built at the beginning of the 1950's, and consequently have now had to undergo the biggest measures with respect to hygiene. Thus, there is now hot water in the sinks and showers, and every soldier will be able to take a shower whenever he himself thinks that it is necessary. The dormitories are clean, and there are 15-20 beds in them. Each soldier has a large personal nightstand. For former soldiers of the former army, the biggest surprise is probably the special dryer for shoes and clothing. We did not observe photographs of the head of state on the premises; only a picture of General Maistr is hanging in a large classroom.

In Cerklje, young soldiers will be trained in three main subject areas, with more than half of the classes devoted to the professional military subject area. All of the classrooms have televisions and video recorders, and will also receive computers soon. All of the officers and noncommissioned officers who will work with the soldiers have been selected on the basis of an open competition, and they all took a special course in Pekre, in which they were trained to work with young people.

International

U.S.'s Johnson Warns Against 'Policy of Violence'

LD2404090892 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0236 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Washington, April 23 (TANJUG)—The governments and leaders of the present and former Yugoslav republics who support violence will realize that their activity will reflect "directly and negatively" on their relations with the United States.

This warning was conveyed to all the replics by Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Ralph Johnson, who returned to Washington on Wednesday, the U.S. State Department said on Thursday. Johnson submitted a detailed report on his tour to U.S Secretary of State James Baker and his deputy Lawrence Eagleburger on Thursday.

State department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told a news conference afterwards that Johnson [words indistinct] Yugoslav republics that a continuation of the policy of violence would inevitably lead to international isolation of such policy.

Johnson told everyone, and especially Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and representatives of the Yugoslav Army, that future relations with the United States would depend on "their conduct in the current conflict" in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Tutwiler said. She added that there were reports about "a large number of Croatian troops in western Hercegovina. These reports are now being examined and if they prove to be true, the U.S. will of course condemn this Tutwiler said.

The U.S. plans to make the next step on April 29, when the develoment of the situation and the conduct of the various participants in the conflicts in Yugoslavia will be reviewed again at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Tutwiler said. Asked about the U.S. stand on Germany's and Holland's request that the U.N. Security Council urgently review the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Tutwiler said Washington had not yet taken a stand but that she saw "no reasons for opposition" to such a proposal.

U.S., EC 'Postponed' Breaking Ties, Sanctions

LD2304115192 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1127 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] London, April 23 (TANJUG)—U.S. President George Bush agreed with the request of the European Commission President Jacques Delors for the decision on possible severance of diplomatic relations with the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia and imposition of sanctions be temporarily postponed, British well-informed sources claimed on Thursday.

Delors requested more time for political discussions so that a compromise solution could be found regarding strained relations between the West and Belgrade which pertained to the escalation of war in Bosnia-Hercegovina (BIH).

Conference on Yugoslavia President Lord Carrington is to be entrusted with this mission as well as U.N. special envoy Cyrus Vance. Carrington has arrived to Sarajevo on Thursday, and would also visit Belgrade and Zagreb. According to the British sources, the two were expected to complete their mission by April 29.

The British official sources have set out that the West's action in the coming days would be aimed at literally all the parties to the Yugoslav crisis in an effort to effect a calming of the situation in the BIH. As set out, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman were in a position to achieve this. He who lacked readiness to cooperate may expect the gravest international sanctions. As already indicated, sanctions—providing they were introduced against Serbia—were sure to hit Croatia, too, to a certain degree.

EC's Pinheiro, Adzic Discusses Bosnia Situation

LD2404033192 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0144 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Belgrade, April 23 (TANJUG)—President of the European Community (E.C.) Council of Ministers and Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro described his talks with acting Yugoslav Defence Minister General Blagoje Adzic on Thursday evening as "very interesting and important."

After the talks in Belgrade, which were also attended by chairman of the peace Conference on Yugoslavia Lord Carrington and chairman of the Conference on Bosnia-Hercegovina Jose Cutilheiro, Pinheiro said he hoped "the expressed good intentions could be made concrete, not only for the good of Bosnia, but the entire Balkans, too."

The Yugoslav Defence Ministry said in a statement that views were exchanged on the causes of the deterioration of the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina and ways to resolve it. "We consider the role of the JNA (Yugoslav People's Army) very important in establishing and implementing a ceasefire and creating conditions for the continuation of the constitutional conference on Bosnia-Hercegovina," Pinheiro said. He added that the JNA's role is also very important because of "aspects linked with the independence of Bosnia-Hercegovina, which the federal army says it respects, and which will be important for consideration when progress is made in the negotiations."

Pinheiro said the expressed stands must be implemented, especially since it is clear that the situation in Bosnia is unstable and that there could be isolated cases of outbreaks of violence. "Very firm political will is therefore necessary for such cases not to worsen the overall situation," he added.

Pinheiro, Carrington and Cutilheiro had talks in Sarajevo on Thursday with the three national leaders in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the commander of the JNA in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and also met with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade. They leave for Zagreb on Friday where they are to have talks with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

China Reportedly Opposes Sanctions Against Serbia

AU2304163492 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Ever since some Western countries started to threaten that they will introduce economic and other sanctions against Serbia, China has always held the view that such sanctions cannot resolve problems. TANJUG correspondent Aleksandar Novacic reports from Beijing:

[Novacic] The official Chinese representative today stated that China is devoting great attention to the situation in Yugoslavia and that it hopes that all sides in Yugoslavia will demonstrate restraint and resolve their disputes peacefully.

This was in fact the answer to the question by the TANJUG correspondent that referred to events in Bosnia-Hercegovina and threats by the United States and some Western European countries that they will sever their relations with Serbia and impose economic sanctions and political isolation.

The Chinese press spokesman did not directly reply to this question, but stressed that China holds the view that all efforts by the international community should contribute toward settling disputes in a peaceful way.

On some previous occasions, China has repeated several times that it is opposed to economic and other sanctions by the international community and that it does not think that such methods are effective in resolving problems. The international community, as stated in Beijing earlier, should adopt such decisions that would help the sides in conflict in Yugoslavia to find solutions through negotiations themselves, decisions that would treat them equally.

Serbian-Israeli Diamond Production, Sales

92BA0793B Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 3 Apr 92 p 9

[Article by D. Todorovic: "The Darkening of the 'Glittering Stones'"]

[Text] After the Serbs discovered they had a common destiny of suffering with the Jews, cooperation was intensified in other areas as well, including the economy. But even these relations were largely initiated on emotional grounds. Thus, Mr. Ziv Salmon, director of the joint venture "International Diamond Center" (whose founders are the Israeli Diamond Center, Ltd., of Ramat Ganna, and Diva of Valjevo), says that one of the motives for starting the joint venture was "that the Jewish and Serbian peoples were together in the same camps." How heavy a burden these noneconomic motives put on the content and development of business is best known to Mr. Salmon. The story that follows indicates to some extent that "love" is not enough for business.

The joint venture for the production, processing, and sale of diamonds and gold jewelry was established with initial capital of $2 million, with the Israeli partner putting up 60 percent and ours 40 percent. The Israeli private company IDC, which entered this venture, is one of the more important representatives of a country in which 30 percent of world diamond production is processed; last year alone, for example, this brought Israel $4 billion from trade in the "glittering stones."

The Israelis took upon themselves the commitment to provide all the studies, plans, and work programs, the equipment for processing and production, the representation and sales rights, the consignment warehouse for the product and production supplies in the amount of $3 million, while it was the obligation of Diva to furnish and equip the production and sales space and to provide the capital in dinars necessary for the first year of business operation. The goal of the joint venture was with the help of the domestic partner to capture the market of all the countries in East Europe. The plan was to invest a total amount of $5 million for those purposes.

Of that very ambitious plan, so far only two places have been opened in Valjevo for exhibiting and one sales outlet at the airport in Belgrade of the total number of 15 stores that were supposed to be open by the end of the year. A sales and production facility is under construction in Valjevo, and they are looking for a store with between 600 and 1,000 square meters of floor space in Knez Mihail Street in Belgrade, in which they would open a large diamond center that would at the same time be a tourist attraction.

The main impediment to more effective performance of the development program, in the opinion of Ziv Salmon, is the legislative policy of the Serbian government. The government, he says, is changing the rules so frequently and making no distinction between a domestic and foreign company. They seem to be forgetting that we are a foreign company that has invested several million dollars in this venture. The new legislative enactments are forcing us to engage in certain export transactions, for instance, the production and exporting of stockings, so that we will be able to import goods. And when we import them, we are prevented from selling them for hard currency. We really do not understand what is happening. Most absurd of all is that we are already here, our capital is here. We are not the kind of company to seek conditions for us to come and control the venture from outside. Is there anything more serious than that? Ziv Salmon asks.

"If we had a permit to operate in hard currency, believe me, because I know it best, and I am convinced of it by the great interest of potential customers," Salmon also says, "the business would take off fantastically. And in that way the government and everything that goes with it would solve some of its problems with foreign exchange."

Federal

Army Costs Reported Causing High Inflation

92BA0793A Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 3 Apr 92 p 9

[Article by Mirko Dekic: "The Logic of Economic Disorder"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] From the beginning of the year to mid-March, the budget revenues going directly to what is left of the Federation amounted to about 2.2 billion dinars. Slightly more than 1 billion dinars in taxes were collected, nearly 500 million in customs duties, and slightly more than 700 million dinars in fees paid to agencies of various federal institutions. It is anticipated, according to the federal projection, that in 1992 the federal budget's own revenues (essentially the only real revenues) will amount to 20.6 billion dinars, while about 70 billion will come from the republics. Because the dinar is losing value at an unprecedented rate—higher at this moment than in any part of the world—it is possible that these figures will be achieved in nominal amounts. In real amounts? Not a chance!

However, revenues have been planned in the federal budget at more than 320 billion dinars. There is an enormous shortage, then, of 230 billion dinars, which will be made up with credit from the National Bank. And because the central bank does not have money of its own, nor can it borrow any from abroad, either from fraternal countries or those who are hostile to us, it will have to put the mint to work in Topcider, that woody section of Belgrade in the vicinity of the Guards Center, well-known in recent history, the Hajduk Fountain well-known in more remote history, the Lodge of one of the famous kings, a place where another king was murdered, and an ever larger graveyard in the background.

The Might of a Military-Political State and the Powerlessness of the Economy

The state of federal financial discipline can be seen from the figure that from the beginning of the year to mid-March the National Bank extended credit to the federal budget in the amount of 51 billion dinars, which is nearly 30 billion more than planned for the first quarter.

Over approximately the same interval, the republics and provinces "borrowed" from primary note issue and for an indefinite period slightly more than 128 billion dinars, of which Serbia alone took 92 billion dinars. This money is, of course, being used for the credit financing of the banks.

The subsequent development is well-known: The money goes to the economy. And whereas the banks are the principal creditors and mandatory stockholders of an ever broader chain of enterprises, which in Serbia, as ownership is transformed, are coming under the government's umbrella, it is a natural conclusion that they are being financed from primary note issue. Or rather: the banks are supplying the credit to finance them. No one is forcing the banks to use the money from primary note issue. No one can force the National Bank (federal or republic) to double primary note issue without an order from the competent parliament. One might speak about a kind of Balkan or Serbian craftiness if we did not know that behind the word "no one" stands the political pressure of a superpowerful political authority, a strong military-political state.

Why Slovenia and Croatia Do Not Have Hyperinflation

Even those economists who have never before dealt with these figures are aware that the excessively high primary note issue, brought about within a narrow circle, is the main reason for hyperinflation, the rise of prices, and the decline in the standard of living. After all, there is no other reason. While lower rates of inflation can be caused by certain disturbed relations on the market, for which governments and their ministries are marginally to blame, hyperinflation can be brought about only by a state whose intention is to realize its unrealistic political or economic objectives. The center for the emission of dizzying inflation is, of course, Belgrade, where a single political ideology and a prevailing economic ideology subordinated to it are controlling both central note-issuing institutions, the federal and the republic.

It is no secret at all, because it was stated back during the debate of the federal and military budgets that most of the primary note issue is intended for military expenditures. Incomparably larger than what goes to the economy, and with the banks serving as intermediaries. Expenditures for war and the army are above all the cause of the hyperinflation in the "remainder of Yugoslavia." The greatest burden in paying for the war and the Serbianization of the former JNA [Yugoslav People's Army] is being borne by citizens from Horgos to Bar. Although indirectly even the Macedonians are supporting this sprawling armada, however paradoxical that might seem, the federal army has nevertheless departed from the territory of that republic. Through the value of the dinar and of their own work that is being lost, of course.

This is at the same time the answer to the question: How is it that Slovenia, and especially Croatia, where such a fierce war has been waged, do not have hyperinflation? They do, of course, have inflation, which is a logical consequence of independence, which is referred to as secessionism in the political vocabulary of the capital.

The independence of the Slovenian central bank is close to those in Europe, while the governor of the National Bank of Croatia, Cicin-Sain, recently managed to resist government pressure to extend credit from primary note issue for the growth of the new Croatian army.

When at one point the Slovenes introduced their own currency, the ratio between the tolar and the Belgrade dinar was 1:1. At the beginning of this week, the ratio was 6.7 dinars for 1 tolar. At the very outset, when the Croatian dinar was born, the ratio to the Yugoslav dinar was also "at par." Now it takes 3 Belgrade dinars to get 1 Croatian dinar. These proportions were, of course, calculated by comparing the three currencies to the German mark.

Macedonia

Chief of Staff Discusses Former, Current Army

92BA0737A Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 31 Mar 92 p 7

[Article by D. Nikolic: "No Reason for Aggression"—first paragraph is BORBA introduction]

[Text] Mitre Arsovski, chief of staff of the Macedonian army, talks about the previous and current armed forces. Macedonia will have a defense of its own with modern weapons and will be prepared to respond to neighbors' aspirations for their territory.

Skopje—The chief of staff of the Macedonian army, General Mitre Arsovski, has stated that twice now Macedonia has been faced with war by intervention and opening of a "southern front." The first time was when Macedonian authorities captured military records, and the second when Macedonian soldiers began to desert en masse from the army and lists were drawn up for mass arrests and trials. Arsovski stated that in the first case he faced down Milutin Kukanjac, commander of the Third Army Region, telling him that the army was doing no harm and that he had documents in hand proving that the Macedonian government was advising its citizens not to respond to recruitment pitches. He asked why blood should be spilled over a bundle of papers. General Kukanjac then agreed to talk to Macedonian leaders.

In the second instance, own his own initiative, because General Nikola Uzelac, who had come to replace Kukanjac, was in Belgrade, Mitre Arsovski issued an order that the arrested soldiers in Negutin be released, something for which he was later criticized. Arsovski stated that, as second in command in the Third Army Region, he was assigned missions that clashed with his conscience and that he was simply unwilling to carry out. There were also plans to arrest him, as well as plans to arrest certain other members of the high command of the Third Military Region.

Macedonian officers were constantly followed and threatened with physical harm.

A widespread split began in the army during the war in Slovenia and Croatia, among enlisted men as well as noncommissioned and commissioned officers. Arsovski says that no top military leader was authorized to abandon a certain part of the territory of what is now the former Yugoslavia or sign a capitulation. The capitulation of the JNA [Yugoslav People's Army] was signed at the time when it was withdrawn from Slovenia. Large-scale withdrawal of officer personnel from army ranks then took place.

Macedonia will have a small army that is to be equipped with modern and highly mobile weapons. Arsovski is also certain that reasons for aggression against Macedonian territory have been reduced. But if Macedonia's neighbors should ever have designs against it, Macedonia must have a defense force of its own, so that the country will not be in a constant state of fear and insecurity. Arsovski says that only a small number of Macedonian officers remain in the JNA, and that even they will return soon. According to Arsovski, a fairly large number of Croatian, Muslim, and Serbian officers are serving in the Macedonian army, and all of them will have the same status that Macedonian officers have.

Association of Serbs, Montenegrins Meets

92BA0737B Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 30 Mar 92 p 6

[Article by M. Kretic: "Serbian Ethnicity Cannot Be Taken Away"—first paragraph is POLITIKA introduction]

[Text] First annual assembly of the Association of Serbs and Montenegrins in Macedonia. University professor Dr. Bora Ristic, credited with organizing the Serbs and Montenegrins in the secessionist republic of Croatia, has said that no one can take away Serbian ethnicity.

Kumanovo, 29 March—An annual assembly of the Association of Serbs and Montenegrins throughout Macedonia was held in Kumanovo today. Of the 170 delegates elected from the many branches and local committees throughout Macedonia, 167 attended the first annual assembly. The assembly was also attended by a representative in the Serbian Assembly, Randjel Veljkovic, and by Ljubisa Filipovic, president of the Association of Serbs in Germany. Before the assembly was opened, a minute of silence was observed to honor those who have fallen in the war to preserve Yugoslavia.

In opening the assembly, its former president, Vojislav Vojivodic, stated that the founding of the association (it was established in mid-1991 in Skopje) "is the consequence of the new political situation in Macedonia" and that the association has the magnificent mission of "spiritual redemption of the Serbs and Montenegrins," as well as "development of good relations with Macedonians, brothers in faith." Vojvodic also stated that in the future the Association will pay special attention to the day-to-day problems of the many Serbs and Montenegrins living in Macedonia, while the Democratic

Party of Serbs in Macedonia, a political party of Serbs formed in this republic and only recently approved by the Macedonian government, will concern itself with their political representation.

"The Association and the future Serbian party are the results of nationalistic attacks on Serbian existence. The most frightening thing is that Macedonian nationalists have the direct support of the political and power wielding authorities in this republic, and defense of the Serbian ethnic essence is being more sorely tried than it has been at any time in these parts since the Second World War," stated Dr. Bora Ristic, chairman of the initiative committee of the Democratic Party of Serbs in Macedonia. Those attending were greatly interested in the address by Gega Madzoski, a Macedonian who spoke in colorful terms about the vampirizing of Macedonian nationalism and fuehrerism, advising the Serbs and Montenegrins "not to concern themselves about their future in Macedonia, because a brotherly and Christian people stands behind them."

The assembly completed its work by electing new leaders.

The current assembly of Serbs and Montenegrins in Macedonia has sent to the Assembly of the SFRY, the presidium and the assemblies of the republics of Serbia and Montenegro, and the Conference on Yugoslavia in The Hague, an open letter spelling out the difficult situation of Serbs and Montenegrins in secessionist Macedonia.

[Box, p 6]

New Association President Bozidar Despotovic

The new president of the Association of Serbs and Montenegrins in Macedonia was elected by secret ballot at the first assembly in Kumanovo. He is Master of Economic Sciences Bozidar Despotovic.

An executive committee with 17 members and a supervisory committee with five members were elected at the first assembly.

Montenegro

Bulatovic Denies Armed Groups Crossing Into Bosnia

AU2304154992 Podgorica POBJEDA in Serbo-Croatian 12 Apr 92 p 1

[Lj. M. report: "Return Today"]

[Text] Podgorica, 11 Apr—"We believe that the recognition of the independence of Bosnia-Hercegovina will only serve to complicate the problems in that republic further, but we sincerely hope that this recognition will follow the results reached so far at the Conference on Bosnia-Hercegovina, which is presided over by Mr. Cutilhiero," Momir Bulatovic, president of Montenegro, stated today to journalists in Podgorica. "I also want to use this occasion to inform the citizens of Montenegro that we are in contact with the state organs of Bosnia-Hercegovina, or rather with those who remained in Sarajevo, in an attempt to enable a certain number of the citizens of Montenegro to leave the conflict areas, and return to their families, and to the peace that still reigns and will continue to reign in these parts," Bulatovic said. "In that respect, with the cooperation of the Yugoslav People's Army and a part of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency, there is an initiative to evacuate tomorrow by army planes all those Montenegrin citizens who want to return to our territory."

"In our talks with Mr. Stjepan Kljujic, we have been warned about a significant number of voluntary paramilitary formations crossing from the territory of Montenegro into Bosnia-Hercegovina. Considering that a very important matter, I immediately asked our Ministry of Internal Affairs to provide me with detailed information. I have here a piece of paper, which I received an hour ago, that gives absolute guarantees that not one citizen of Montenegro, armed and belonging to any voluntary formation of any conflicting side, has crossed from Montenegro into Bosnia-Hercegovina," the president of the Montenegrin Presidency announced, and added: "To our collective and great grief, people are crossing into Montenegro only in search of the sanctuary of peace. The number of refugees is constantly increasing, and I want to take this opportunity to appeal to the citizens of Montenegro to show once ag[illegible] their compassion and solidarity. Despite all the pol[illegible] differences that separate us, we have appealed tod[illegible] to our partners to join forces in trying to find a solution to the Bosnia-Hercegovina crisis that would be acceptable to all three constituent nations. I want to say that the accusations that Montenegro is partly to be blamed for the conflicts are, fortunately, completely unfounded, and that Montenegro, apart from what the JNA uses as its territory, is not a base for any paramilitary or other formations that are taking part in the conflicts in Bosnia-Hercegovina," Momir Bulatovic, said in conclusion.

Assembly Discusses New 'Federal' Constitution

AU2304145792 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] At the same time as the Serbian Assembly is meeting [in Belgrade], the Montenegrin Assembly is meeting in Podgorica, also to discuss the proposed constitution for the federal republic of Yugoslavia. Here is a report by Dragan Stavljanin:

[Begin recording] [Stavljanin] In his introductory speech, Montenegro Assembly President Dr. Risto Vukcevic recalled that two-thirds of the republic's citizens voted in the referendum in favor of continuing life in a joint state. Speaking about the contents of the new constitution, Vukcevic pointed out that it is an act of breaking up the practice of national blockades, a consensus economy, and a single party line established by

the 1974 Constitution. In his words, the proposed constitution has been written according to the model of world experience, above all in the sphere of human rights, the market economy, and political organization.

[Vukcevic] Enormous economic difficulties and the complex political situation in which we are living demand of us as national representatives that we adopt a constitution as soon as possible and make a constitutional (?rearrangement) of Yugoslavia—Yugoslavia in the form and size as it is now at least for the time being—and thereby contribute to a final denouement of the Yugoslav crisis. Therefore, this act should not be considered only a constitutional and legal [word indistinct] of setting up the federal republic of Yugoslavia, but also an act whose adoption will contribute to peace and the stabilization of the situation on Yugoslav territory.

[Stavljanin] Thirty amendments have been proposed in the debate. Thus, Nikola Samardzic thinks that the new constitution limits the sovereignty of the republics. In his opinion, it is unacceptable for the government to be able to dissolve the Assembly without consulting the deputies. It was pointed out that one needs to precisely state the equality of both scripts, as well as to state to whom the president of the republic is accountable. Marko Veskovic, speaking on behalf of the Democratic Coalition and the Party of National Equality, said that the proposed provisions call the national equality in the republic into question. This was why, in his words, Albanians and Muslims failed to vote in the referendum. Therefore, Veskovic proposed that the adoption of the constitution be postponed.

The Assembly of Montenegro will continue its session this afternoon and the Constitutional Commission is going to examine the said amendments in the meantime. [end recording]

Draft Constitution Adopted

LD2304214892 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2122 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Podgorica, 23 Apr (TANJUG)—The Montenegrin Assembly this evening adopted the draft constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia just 30 minutes after the deputies gathered in the main hall to continue today's session. Out of the 125 deputies of the republican parliament, 90 were present and they all cast their votes. Eighty-seven of these declared themselves in favor of the draft constitution, one was against, and there were two abstentions. The majority of the opposition deputies failed to attend today's session, apart from deputies of the People's Party.

The adoption of the draft constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was greeted by a standing ovation and lengthy applause, after which a draft law on implementing the constitution was also adopted.

EC Creation of 'Banana Republics' 'Senseless'

92BA0783B Podgorica POBJEDA in Serbo-Croatian 10 Apr 92 p 7

[Article by Miodrag Tripkovic: "The Muslim Road to the West"]

[Text] Europe is dealing in a truly communist fashion with Broz' bolshevik Yugoslavia, violating in its pursuit not only its own conventions and the rights of people to self-determination, but also in the end even the rights of certain peoples to exist and survive. The job that the European Twelve has performed successfully by offering "good offices" to Yugoslavia—in its final quartering and dismemberment and in the creation of senseless banana states—certainly would not have been performed any better even by participants in the Dresden Congress, which adopted the cursed decision to destroy the "prison of the people," and whose last will and testament, as we see, has been effectively brought to a conclusion by the "goodwill" of those who did not manage to do this with bloody weapons in the last two world wars.

In refusing to recognize for Yugoslavia precisely those rights which it immediately and fervently recognized for its administrative regions (republics), whereby it actually promoted terror of the minority over the majority, and within republic limits majority rule of the majority nationalities over the minorities, the European Community has actually offered undisguised support to secessionism and separatism in Yugoslavia, and, we would say, has deliberately set a bestial fire whose bloody flame can always be blamed on the perpetual Balkan scapegoat (the Serbian people). The fact that at the same moment it is playing before the world the role of some kind of supposed voluntary fireman in pacifying inflamed passions heightened already to an irrational level, is presumably supposed to secure it the primacy of a supposed objective and fair arbiter, a referee who tries to drop a small grain of reason into the boiler of Balkan irrationality.

That the road to hell for Yugoslavia has been mostly paved with the "good intentions" of Europe has been evident from the very moment when Europe presented its ultimatum that the supreme office of a country that at that time still existed be given to a politician (Croatian, of course!) who had publicly promised that he would be the "last president of Yugoslavia." The descent into the circles of the inferno continued with the recognition of secessionist Slovenia and Croatia, with the satanization of always one and the same people, the "Serbian JNA [Yugoslav People's Army]," of those who no longer consented to go voluntarily into a slaughterhouse quite well inscribed in memory and reserved for one people and one faith.

By acknowledging the heaviest ballast and recurrence of Yugoslav bolshevism—Broz' AVNOJ [Antifascist Council of the National Liberation of Yugoslavia] borders—as the only one authoritative in division of the nationalities, Europe (consciously or not, it makes no

difference) has thrown between the "fraternal nationalities and ethnic minorities" at odds with one another a bloody scimitar whose hot cutting edge, it seems, will not cool off for a long time yet. Because in the Balkans it is precisely the borders between the nationalities that have been the bloodiest boundaries, and because Europe has persistently wanted to underline on the map a black-yellow empire that had disappeared, the earth in the hilly Balkans will hardly become quiet any time soon. In spite of the "good intentions" of the EC, there is no peace among neighbors, nor will there be among nations.

The perfidious and Pharisean advancement of the calculation that the interest of Europe (above all!) might at the same time be the interest of the various Yugoslav peoples could in the end come back on Europe itself like its own boomerang. Recognition of the independence of Bosnia and Hercegovina [B-H] has really opened wide to a European Germany or German Europe the "Road to the East" so longed for, but also an Islamic "Road to the West" for Muslim fundamentalism. The naive beliefs of the Americans and Germans that Turkey, because it is a secular country, should actually be a barrier to the penetration of fundamentalist ideas of an exclusive religion will immediately shatter against the wall of the truth, for which in the realm of theory the leader of the Muslim people of B-H has more than clearly laid the groundwork in his "Islamic Declaration," and whose baneful blade the entire Serbian people has already felt at its throat in windswept Bosnia-Hercegovina: "There is no peace nor coexistence between the Islamic faith and non-Islamic social and political institutions."

If we add to this Demirel's statement that Turkey extends "from China all the way to the Adriatic Sea," and that in coming years the SDA [Democratic Action Party] intends to bring four million Muslims back "to their homeland Bosnia," after which it could finally be proclaimed the first Muslim state in Europe, the European scenario that called for cutting Yugoslavia to pieces could really be a good scenario for some future partitioning of Europe itself. Two hundred and fifty mosques in London, as well as those monumental mosques in Stockholm and Zagreb, whose construction was a matter of personal interest to Imam Khomeini, are perhaps only the first step along the road to total Islamization of certain European countries and indeed perhaps of the entire world. Will Europe become aware of that fact, and when?!

Serbia

Government Issues Statement on CSCE Document

AU2404133292 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1124 GMT 24 April 92

["Full text" of the Republic of Serbia Government statement issued after 24 April session]

[Text] At its session today, which was chaired by Dr. Radoman Bozovic, the Serbian Government discussed the document of the continuation meeting of the CSCE held on 15 April concerning the Yugoslav crisis. The Serbian Government shares the profound concern of the CSCE because of the increase in the violence and fighting in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

From the very beginning of the crisis, the Government of Serbia has been sincerely advocating the immediate end to hostilities; respect for the provisions of the cease-fire agreed on 12 April and the latest agreement of 23 April; and the resumption as soon as possible of the work of the Conference on Bosnia-Hercegovina. Agreeing with the need for neighboring states of Bosnia-Hercegovina to refrain from acts of interference and behaving in line with such a stand, the Government points out the necessity of the CSCE states refraining from unilateral or biased actions.

The Government of Serbia considers that, because this Yugoslav republic was recognized as an independent state before the the European Conference on Bosnia-Hercegovina successfully ended, the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina was speeded up and caused even more serious bloodshed, which destabilized even more an already unstable situation. The public and Government of Serbia cannot understand and accept that Serbia is being blamed for the consequences of this.

The government is profoundly concerned that the CSCE has based its assessments on the Republic of Serbia on imprecise information, because of which the real danger exists of the adoption of incorrect decisions that could have grave consequences. The government states with indignation that the Republic of Serbia has been accused by some members of the CSCE of aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina, which it has never perpetrated, nor has it even indicated this in any way and through any of its actions. On the contrary, the Republic of Serbia is continually advocating the achievement of a permanent consensus within the framework of the Conference on Bosnia-Hercegovina as the only realistic, democratic, and legal way to resolve the crisis in this republic.

It is being demanded from the Republic of Serbia that it withdraw all paramilitary formations that are in Bosnia-Hercegovina at the moment. The Serbian Government categorically stresses that no formations whatsoever of the Republic of Serbia are in Bosnia-Hercegovina and emphasizes that setting up paramilitary formations is banned by law in the Republic of Serbia and that as such they do not exist in Serbia and therefore cannot operate from its territory against a neighboring country.

The occasional appearance of armed individuals and groups outside military formations, which represents a marginal phenomenon, is always and regardless of the scope a subject of strict control and ban by the competent political organs because they are against the law. In this sense the Serbian Government is taking and will take energetic measures against all attempts to illegally arm individuals and groups and their activities.

The Serbian Government guarantees to the CSCE that its territory cannot be used for armed individuals and groups to cross into Bosnia-Hercegovina no matter what they are called.

The Serbian Government underscores again that Serbia does not have any territorial pretensions whatsoever against any Yugoslav republic and therefore it has none against Bosnia-Hercegovina, so the question of undermining the territorial integrity of Bosnia-Hercegovina could not earlier and cannot now be raised. Yesterday's adoption of the proposed constitution of the federal republic of Yugoslavia in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia clearly confirms this.

Serbia thinks that the only way to resolve the situation in this republic is to have peaceful negotiations between the three constituent peoples of this republic within the framework of the Conference on Bosnia-Hercegovina in Brussels. The Serbian Government fully cooperates with the United Nations and the EC with their peace efforts, for which much clear proof exists. It resolutely advocates the resolution of all quarrels in a peaceful way and the surmounting of the Yugoslav crisis in a fair and legal way.

The government recalls that in the course of the conference so far, Serbia has been cooperative and active, which can be seen in the considerable number of proposals and amendments, most of which have been accepted or built into certain joint statements or documents of the conference. The Republic of Serbia supports the further work of the Conference on Yugoslavia and will continue to make its full contribution to its successful conclusion.

The Serbian Government repeats that Serbia guarantees the protection of the rights of members of the ethnic minorities according to the highest standards of the United Nations and the CSCE and is ready for open and well-argued dialogue with representatives of international organizations on the consistent fulfillment of the obligations which our country has undertaken in this respect.

Considering that the reorganized Yugoslavia accepts all the obligations that the previous Yugoslavia undertook on the basis of ratified international legal instruments and political documents, including the documents of the CSCE, the Republic of Serbia fully respects all other obligations stemming from membership in the CSCE and especially all the principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

It is well-known and quite clear to the citizens of the Republic of Serbia that accusations about Serbia's military aggression in Bosnia-Hercegovina are untrue, but they cannot understand that the European and international communities could on the basis of such untruths make erroneous political decisions to the detriment of the interests of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens.

With the desire to persuade the other members of the CSCE that the assessments of the Republic of Serbia and its behavior regarding the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina and other issues expressed in the CSCE document do not correspond to the facts, the Government of the Republic of Serbia is willing to allow a group of CSCE experts to establish on the spot the actual situation regarding the questions that are raised in the aforementioned CSCE document.

It is convinced that the arrival and the findings of this group will contribute to and clarify the real truth, in the interests of overcoming the present ambiguities and problems and resolve more rapidly all the acute problems of the Yugoslav crisis. If the CSCE members care about the truth, then the facts are easy to verify.

Milosevic Comments on Peace Talks, U.S. Policy

AU2304195392 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 23 Apr 92

[News conference by Slobodan Milosevic, president of the Republic of Serbia, with unidentified reporters after talks with Lord Carrington in Belgrade on 23 April—recorded]

[Text] [Milosevic] I can tell you that I appreciate [Milosevic corrects himself] that we can be encouraged with the result that Minister Pinheiro [foreign minister of Portugal] and Lord Carrington [chairman of the Conference on Yugoslavia] achieved in Sarajevo, on the basis of what we heard from them, namely, the agreement that has been accepted without any reservations in Sarajevo implies an immediate end to hostilities and the soonest possible continuation of the Conference on Bosnia-Hercegovina.

For our side, considering that we would like the Yugoslav crisis to end peacefully as soon as possible, we are very concerned—because of Serbia, Bosnia-Hercegovina, the entire Yugoslavia, and all our citizens—that the war in this country stop as soon as possible so that we all can turn to our everyday peacetime worries, above all those that concern the revitalization of our economy, for which we certainly have many conditions.

Therefore, in brief, I would like to stress again that the progress that has been achieved is in full conformity with our well-known stands that have been clearly expressed earlier. We therefore think that all hostilities in Bosnia-Hercegovina should stop immediately and that the Conference on Bosnia-Hercegovina should be continued immediately on the basis of equality of the three constituent peoples and on the basis of their tripartite consensus.

Today we heard that such an agreement has been reached and that the conference will continue in Lisbon on Monday. I would also like to add, since I did not hear Minister Pinherio nor Lord Carrington say it, that they will do their best to ensure that the conference does not stop until final results have been archived. This will

certainly be in the interests of all citizens of Bosnia-Hercegovina and all three nations, along with all other Yugoslav republics.

The only thing that concerns us is that we cannot understand at all—and I must say that this time our partners in the talk did not accuse us of that this time—the great pressure and accusations that Serbia has carried out some kind of invasion in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Even if something like that had happened, would anyone in Serbia would have been able to hide it? Could Serbia have allowed this?

You know our stand very well. We think that the mutual killing in Bosnia-Hercegovina was to the detriment of all of its citizens equally, and therefore to all three nations. This killing must stop immediately.

Regarding the possibility of some irregular formations, groups, and individuals going there from Serbia, I can publicly say here that the organs of authority of the Republic of Serbia fully control the territory of the Republic of Serbia and that there are no possibilities whatsoever of any groups or individuals, that can always exist, inflicting some damage in this respect.

Such instances of damage represent an enormous damage for Serbia's reputation, and this kind of behavior certainly does not contribute to the interests of the Serbian people in Bosnia-Hercegovina. After all, the most responsible representatives of the Serbian people in Bosnia-Hercegovina yesterday stated very clearly that they want to prevent any arrivals from outside to all communities, and resist any kind of pressure that can only make the already difficult situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina even worse.

Therefore, it is certain that the obligation of all neighboring republics, including Serbia, is to help see that such developments never take place. In this respect, we will stick to the norms that are universally accepted throughout the world.

Lord Carrington has just asked me a few minutes ago to set the date for this conference. He thinks that it could resume in Brussels on 6 May. I do not think that there are any difficulties with this and that we should continue the Conference on Yugoslavia in Brussels on 6 May.

[Reporter] Mr. President, will this terrible international pressure on Belgrade finally drop after the statement by Pinheiro, and your statement, which sounds optimistic to me, in fact both of them sound optimistic?

[Milosevic] I hope that this pressure will decrease, above all, because the accusations are not based on facts. If the facts were what they appear to be, and if the accusations were founded on them, then no one would indeed be able to protest against such pressure, on any country that is going into these adventures. However, as the old proverb says, lies have short legs. These lies will not last forever. These lies were broadcast through a well-organized media war, a propaganda war, through a well-organized and well paid propaganda war. You saw that even crimes and the victims that fell in both Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina were ascribed by many media to some kind of Serbian irregular formations. They are entered in the list of crimes of Serbia, the list of crimes committed by Serbs. You saw that even many documents and photographs—yesterday you saw it on the first page of EKSPRES—were published in other newspapers under different titles. We even heard on a television program in West Europe that Serbian irregulars and the Yugoslav People's Army blew up a dam in Visegrad, although it was clear to the entire Yugoslav public just who did it.

However, bearing in mind the fact that the truth cannot be concealed for a long time, I believe that this pressure will start to weaken. At this moment our greatest ally is the truth, and we believe in it.

[Reporter] Will you use your influence on Mr. Karadzic so that he himself contributes toward the effective preservation of the cease-fire?

[Milosevic] I saw and read very carefully the platform that Radovan Karadzic presented yesterday. This platform, I would say, quite categorically states that they demand an immediate cease-fire, immediate resumption of the conference, reject any acceptance by or invitations from outside by any community, and deny the right to anyone to retain territories that were won by force.

I therefore assume and believe that the leadership of Serbs in Bosnia will stick to what it has stated, that it will keep its word, and that, I am sure, it will constructively take part in the Conference on Bosnia-Hercegovina that will resume in Lisbon on 27 April.

[Reporter] Was anything said about the Yugoslav People's Army and its role in Bosnia-Hercegovina?

[Milosevic] We did not talk about the Yugoslav People's Army in particular. Minister Pinheiro and Lord Carrington, chairman of the conference, are in fact going to a meeting with the military leadership, General Adzic and his associates, from here. I suppose they will discuss the Yugoslav People's Army at this meeting in more detail.

[Reporter, in English] What are the reasons, in your opinion, for a change in the U.S. policy toward Serbia? Why do you think the Unites States is putting pressure on Serbia now?

[Milosevic] I believe that the U.S. Administration is misinformed. A major turnabout took place after the foreign minister of Bosnia-Hercegovina visited the United States. Bearing in mind the experience with information that came from those sources, I can assume that this incorrect and malicious information could have provided the basis for any and an even worse conclusion on Serbia's behavior. I therefore do not think that the U.S. Administration was malicious. I simply suppose that they were served falsified facts on the real state of affairs in Yugoslavia. Who could believe at all, and who

could accept such an accusation, that Serbia has committed such a criminal act of invasion of Bosnia- Hercegovina? If this indeed happened, would anyone in Serbia be able to hide this from the 10 million people that live here?

[Reporter] Mr. President, it is evident that an agreement has been reached today. Do you think that the threats issued to Serbia will not be carried out on 29 April, when the CSCE continues work, because of today's agreement?

[Milosevic] I cannot give you a precise answer to this for a simple reason, namely that these threats have not been based on facts and because behind them there are obviously many political pressures by the very forces that were the many protagonists in the breakup of Yugoslavia. We are talking about the continuation of attempts to totally break up Yugoslavia, and I believe, the continuation of attempts to prevent the extension, the continuation of Yugoslavia as the common state, and everything that is happening today in the assemblies of Serbia and Montenegro.

Setting up a strong state in the Balkans does not suit this policy at all, which has been breaking Yugoslavia apart in the last few years with the help of its Yugoslav branches, because this state is disturbing the balance of powers on which they are counting. There is no doubt that this state— which will have the greatest economic resources in the Balkans, despite everything, and which will be the most populous state, a state in the very center of the Balkans with an exit to the sea, which will have 11 million people, and with very big possibilities to achieve a very quick economic revitalization—cannot surely be seen as somebody's appendix in the future, but as a free and independent state. In this effort to break up Yugoslavia it is obvious that this above-described scenario does not obviously suit these powers.

[Reporter] Mr. Milosevic, one question, please. Gentlemen from Europe are coming and going and making statements. You agree with them. When they go back they will have some completely different interpretations. Are you actually presenting them the real problem here? Otherwise, how could they say to you what they are saying now?

[Milosevic] Well, I hope that in all our previous talks, we were able to present them our problems truthfully. Finally, they could see this for themselves from the fact that during the entire debate and the conference on Yugoslavia, and during the talks with the representatives of the international institutions, we did not change our stand about this. Therefore, I expect that, regarding the EC and the United States, and primarily the UN, they will be more active in resolving the Yugoslav crisis. In this way it will be possible for the truth to be far more accessible than it has been until now, and also the crisis can be resolved in a just manner with the assistance of the international community.

No matter what direction things take, I believe that we have no other choice but to strive to establish our joint state, which should represent Yugoslavia's continuity, as soon as possible and that we should quickly turn to its economic renewal.

[Reporter] Mr. President! According to some reports that were arriving after the CSCE session in Helsinki there was speculation—it was rumored in the corridors—that a swift turn in U.S. politics toward Yugoslavia was a result of your personal relations with the representatives of the U.S. Administration in Belgrade. Could you comment on this?

[Milosevic] I could not assume that a superpower would base its politics on personal sympathies or antipathies. Well, without a doubt personal sympathies or antipathies can have certain influence, but I do not believe that they could have a decisive influence in this.

[Reporter] Mr. President, excuse me...

[Milosevic, interrupting] They could probably influence the information that is conveyed in one way or another, but not evaluation and decision making.

[Reporter] You probably know that people are greatly concerned for their fate and for the fate of the state. Finally, we were threatened with severing of diplomatic relations, new sanctions, this or that type of embargo, a sort of cordon sanitaire. Can you send some sort of a message, that would not be a false consolation but a sort of encouragement? The situation in which various statements from the West have put us is really worrying. We do not know what will happen in the days to come. Will they impose an embargo, will they surround us with a sort of cordon sanitaire, or what?

[Milosevic] I hope that the international community and the world will try to act objectively. In the talks with Minister Pinheiro I was given assurances about their efforts to act objectively and that we really should not count on the existence of a sort of anti-Serbian feelings in the EC and throughout Europe. I believe that this country has the strength and the capability to survive and continue to develop. We cannot be anybody's servant in this new order. This is at this moment probably our biggest mistake. However, we can be a good, constructive, and in all aspects equal partner with those who have the goodwill to cooperate with us. There are plenty of such partners in the world. I am convinced that we cannot talk about an isolation that would either last long, be successful, or be total, bearing in mind that this isolation could not be based on justice, facts, history, and current times, but exclusively on force and the interests that cannot generate such negative activities for a long time.

[Reporter] Mr. Pinheiro said that you will personally double the efforts to resolve the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. How can this be done in real life?

[Milosevic] He said what we discussed, namely, they are worried by a certain detail, and that is the accusations about some paramilitary formations that are moving

from Serbia into Bosnia-Hercegovina. On the basis of a report by the authorized organs of the Republic of Serbia that I have here, I convinced my partners in the debate that the authorities of the Republic of Serbia are fully in control of their territory and that there is no danger—despite the occurrence of the attempts that the Serbian decree prohibiting paramilitary formations be occasionally violated—that the decree could be violated to such an extent that it would harm or worsen the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. They can expect that the organs of the Republic of Serbia will respect this obligation and that they will not allow violations to happen.

[Reporter] Mirko Jovic [head of Serbian National Renewal party] said in yesterday's edition of POLITIKA that it is normal that people are going to Bosnia to defend their predecessors, just like the communists defended the internationalism in Spain in the past.

[Milosevic] Do not ask me to comment on what individuals are saying in the papers. I have heard much coarser statements by individual political and public persons. As you know, we have freedom of speech in Serbia. However, the Serbian organs will be able to react and follow up appropriately on any actual violation of the law.

[Reporter] Could you make a short statement in English...

[Milosevic, interrupting] Thank you, thank you all.

Vice President Holds Meetings in U.S.

LD2304135292 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0921 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Washington, April 23 (TANJUG)—Serbia has no territorial claims towards Bosnia-Hercegovina, said Serbian parliament Vice President Vukasin Jokanovic during talks with David Gompert, the U.S. President's foreign policy advisor, on Wednesday evening in Washington. Jokanovic said that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which is to be adopted soon, would recognize the borders of all republics.

Adding that Serbia was not involved in the developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Jokanovic said Serbia Republic would soon adopt a resolution 'banning illegal crossings into Bosnia-Hercegovina and envisages punishment for perpetrators.'

Sources in the Yugoslav Embassy in Washington say Gompert stressed the need for Serbia to undertake urgent measures concerning Bosnia-Hercegovina. He said that the Serbian Government should stop interfering in the events in the newly-recognized Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Gompert added the United States would like to have friendly relations with the Serbian people and was not biased since it had no special interests in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Jokanovic denied the existence of any links between Serbia and the Yugoslav People's Army, noting that the United States was expected to call on Croatia to withdraw over 10,000 of its troops from Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Jovanovic Rejects Blame for Croatia, Bosnia Wars

AU2304190292 Mainz 3 SAT Television Network in German 1722 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Interview with Serbian Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic by Austrian television correspondent Eugen Freund via television monitor on 23 April; place not given—recorded; Jovanovic speaks in Serbo-Croatian with simultaneous German translation]

[Text] [Freund] Mr. Jovanovic, this morning you spoke with FRG Foreign Minister Genscher. What did the foreign minister threaten to do—if he did at all threaten you—if the federal army does not withdraw immediately from Bosnia-Hercegovina, as Genscher and the EC have repeatedly demanded?

[Jovanovic] Mr. Genscher did not threaten me. We held a good talk, in which we discussed all the aspects in Bosnia and in Yugoslavia. He told me some things very clearly. I think that I understood him. I did not see it as a threat, but as a recommendation. It is not our goal, either, to isolate Bosnia or Serbia. This would not be good for stability nor for calm in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

[Freund] Minister Jovanovic, what consequences do you draw from the clear words, as you said, spoken to you by Foreign Minister Genscher?

[Jovanovic] This is nothing new. We have already heard this from other sides—some things publicly, some not publicly, some via the media. Mr. Genscher said it in a civilized manner, and I think that this is a good basis for favorable cooperation to find a good solution to the tragic situation in Bosnia.

[Freund] Can you explain the role of the Serbs in Bosnia, in your view?

[Jovanovic] The Serbs in Bosnia are a people of this republic, and they, like the two other peoples, have a right to fight for the recognition of their rights. They feel that this right has not been recognized by President Izetbegovic nor by the EC, either.

[Freund] But why do Serbia, or the Serbian people in Bosnia-Hercegovina not respond with political means to these political measures which you just mentioned—Izetbegovic on the one side and the EC on the other—but with military means, namely with fighting?

[Jovanovic] We also ask ourselves this question. We, too, are interested in a political solution to this problem in Bosnia. All three ethnic groups have legitimate interests, and we are also against a civil war. We think that this civil war is detrimental to all three parties, particularly to the Muslims and the Serbs, since they are mixed. On 12 April we made a request that the conference be continued until a solution is found, a solution for Bosnia. This is our attitude. We have made this clear to everyone

with whom we have talked recently, also to [words indistinct] and to Mr. Genscher this morning.

[Freund] You say you are against civil war. Are you as much against this civil war as you were against the civil war in Croatia, where towns were bombed to ruins, where the people were terrorized? What are you actually doing to prevent this war?

[Jovanovic] We were also against the war in Croatia. This war was blamed on the Serbian people. Later on, when the Army was sent in to separate the two ethnic groups, the Army was attacked by Croatian troops. This is how the bloody war started. Unfortunately, this war claimed a very great number of lives. We have never supported nor advocated war. We have always been in favor of solving the problem in a legal manner, of having all (?six) peoples decide their fate themselves.

[Freund] But, Mr. Minister, you cannot deny, for instance, that the Serbian guerrillas in Croatia are able to carry out all their aggressions only because they know that the federal army supports them.

[Jovanovic] Before the Chetniks there were the Ustasha members, who attacked. They were supported by the Croatian Government. One cannot blame just one side for this (?fratricidal) war, in particular not just the Chetniks. Many people are fighting on the Serbian side in Croatia. Many dirty attacks were made there and the Croatian side was doing this above all.

[Freund] Mr. Minister, thank you very much for this interview.

Seselj Denies Existence of Paramilitary Forces

LD2304191492 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1817 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Belgrade, April 23 (TANJUG)—The Serbian Radical Party has no paramilitary formations and no need to intervene militarily because [word indistinct] in the Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina are capable of winning the battle for their own future—Vojislav Seselj, leader of this opposition right-wing party of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia told reporters in Belgrade today.

Seselj assessed that it would be possible to resolve the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina through a consensus of the three warring sides (Muslims, Serbs and Croats—the three constituent nations) and the division of Bosnia because [word indistinct] "Serbs will never tolerate the establishment of a Muslim jamahiriyah in their territories."

Seselj made the statement on the occasion of accusations by international organizations that the Yugoslav [word indistinct] and Serbia with its paramilitary formations were provoking [word indistinct] inter-ethnic clashes in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The Serbian Government also rejected these accusations.

Clashes in Bosnia-Hercegovina escalated after the Muslim-Croat coalition of this republic, contrary to the wishes of the Serbian people, asked and won recognition from the European Community (EC) on April 7 this year.

Local Elections Scheduled for 31 May

LD2304155192 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1153 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Belgrade, April 31 (TANJUG)—The first round of local elections in the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia will be held on May 31 and the second round two weeks later, the Belgrade daily POLITIKA announced today. As the daily 'unofficially has learned from the leadership of the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS),' the elections will most likely be held at the same time as the elections for deputies to the parliament of the future federal republic of Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav republics of Serbia and Montenegro have decided to create a common state, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which will be open to all Yugoslav republics wishing to continue life together in Yugoslavia.

The daily notes that the exact date of the local and federal elections will be known next week. Local elections should have been held in April of last year but because the opposition objected to this, they were postponed until the autumn, the reason being that there was no law on the territorial organization of Serbia.

President of the parliament of Serbia Aleksandar Bakocevic had scheduled the first round of the local elections for the 10th and the second for the 24th of November last year, but they were postponed again because of the war which at the time was underway in the Yugoslav secessionist Republic of Croatia.

A proposal was launched by the SPS these days for the forming of a Council of National Unity. The ruling party's branch in Nis proposed the forming of the council which would 'play an important role in the formulation of the Serbian national program and help eliminate party division.' To those familiar with the political situation in Serbia such a proposal by the greatest SPS foothold in Serbia came as a surprise, since it to a great extent conforms to the one time demands of the Serbian opposition.

TANJUG Details Croat Militia 'Provocations'

LD2204130292 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1237 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Trebinje, April 22 (TANJUG)—Armed forces of the secessionist Yugoslav Republic of Croatia resumed provocations over the past 24 hours on the Dubrovnik-Hercegovina war zone, with infantry and mortar fire, including multiple rocket launchers. Artillery units of the Podgorica corps succeeded at midnight in checking the advance of the Croatian forces at the village of Radetici, on the border of Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina, as

announced by Yugoslav Army Second operative group for Hercegovina press center on Wednesday morning.

The Croatian side opened sniper and mortar fire in Dubrovnik surroundings on three occasions, the military sources said. They warned of the difficult situation in the valley of the river Neretva in Bosnia-Hercegovina, especially in Mostar and Capljina.

People, mostly Serbs, continued leaving certain sections of Mostar, and members of the Croatian paramilitary formations moved into their apartments and houses. The Croatian paramilitary formations carried out aggression on Bosnia-Hercegovina, the republic recognized by the E.C. on April 6.

The efforts of the E.C. representatives and those of the International Red Cross organization committee to take over the body of killed Yugoslav Army Lieutenant Dragan Bajramovic from the barracks in Capljina. He is the son of Yugoslav Presidency member Sejdo Bajramovic. The third effort to evacuate wounded soldiers and civilians, including children, fell through, newsmen were told. The Yugoslav Army barracks in Capljina was exposed to continual attacks and was under the blockade of the Croatian paramilitary formations. The Yugoslav Army units sustained no losses on Tuesday, as set out at the press conference.

TANJUG Describes Croat 'Anti-Serbian' Campaign

LD2104141392 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1158 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Belgrade, April 21 (TANJUG)—The Croatian authorities have once again launched an anti-Serbian propaganda drive calling on Croats to a confrontation with the Serbs and their expulsion from this secessionist Yugoslav republic.

Leaflets have been dropped in Dalj in the Serbian region of Slavonia, Baranja and Western Srem, instructing citizens of Croatian nationality on methods by which they will force Serbs to move out, "in order to rid the country of intruders." "A solution cannot be found so long as one Serb lives in Croatia. That is why all must be done in order to make them move out as soon as possible," claims the leaflet which has the title "Get To Know Serbs So You Can Hate Them More."

The leaflet calls on Croats to punch holes in the tyres of cars owned by Serbs, to dump garbage at their doorsteps, to write obnoxious graffitti on their houses, to ring their doorbells during the night, and to ignore Serbs in all spheres of life and work. The leaflet ends in cynical advice telling Croats to call Serbs "to a peaceful life together" in direct contacts.

After winning the 1990 elections, the authorities in secessionist Croatia proclaimed Serbs living in Croatia a national minority and denied them the right to self-determination, which they as a constituent Yugoslav nation have.

The Croatian authorities also banned the Serbs from using their national symbols and script, and started the expulsion of Serbs who have lived in those territories for centuries, all with the goal of creating an ethnically pure Croatian state. This provoked armed conflicts in the territory of secessionist Croatia.

The first indication of a confrontation with the Serbs were calls in the Croatian media for a showdown with prominent Serbs, threatening telephone calls, and the marking of Serb houses and flats. The result was that thousands of flats and houses were deserted, mined or demolished, and over 160,000 Serbs fled to Serbia.